Daily Report

Latin America

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CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An Ω indicates a Foreign Media Note.

CARIBBEAN

Cuba

Fidel Castro's 8 Aug News Conference *[Havana TV]* 1
Fidel Castro 11 Aug News Conference *[Havana Radio]* 9
Castro Would Sacrifice 'Political Preferences' for Peace *[EL PAIS 10 Aug]* 13
Fidel Castro Rejects Killing 'Traitors' *[Havana Radio]* 13
Funeral for 'Murdered' Officer Set for 14 Aug *[PRENSA LATINA]* 14
Navy Chief Terms Lieutenant's 'Murder' 'Vile Act' *[Havana Radio]* 14
Article Outlines U.S.-Cuban Migration Conflict *[PRENSA LATINA]* 14
U.S. Lawmaker Interviewed on 'Current Crisis' *[PRENSA LATINA]* 17
TV Notes U.S. President 'Forced' To Review Policy *[Havana TV]* 18

Dominican Republic

Congress Postpones Debate on New Elections *[NOTIMEX]* 18
Congress Fixes New Election Date, Balaguer's Term *[AFP]* 19
Haitians Said Still Crossing Border To Buy Merchandise *[NOTIMEX]* 19

Haiti

Soldiers, Volunteers Stage March Over Invasion Threat *[NOTIMEX]* 20
De Facto Government Imposes Press Restrictions *[Hamburg DPA]* 21
Two Local Employees of U.S. Network Released *[AFP]* 21

Jamaica

Hijacked Cuban Fishing Boat Arrives *[Madrid EFE]* 21

MEXICO

Subcommander Marcos Speaks at Convention *[LA JORNADA 10 Aug]* 22
Workers Confederation Endorses PRI's Zedillo *[UNOMASUNO 10 Aug]* 25
Institute Decides Dissemination of Preliminary Vote Results *[Mexico City Radio]* 26
Deputy Attorney General on Arms, Ammunition Trafficking *[UNOMASUNO 8 Aug]* 26
Cited on Drug Trafficking Cartels *[UNOMASUNO 9 Aug]* 27

CENTRAL AMERICA

Costa Rica

President Opposes U.S. 'Intervention' in Cuba *[ACAN]* 29
Institute To Continue Electricity Supply to Honduras *[NOTIMEX]* 29

Guatemala

Low Voter Turnout Marks Legislative Elections *[ACAN]* 29
Grenade Thrown at Voting Center *[NOTIMEX]* 30
Polling Stations Close *[ACAN]* 30
Preliminary Returns Favor PAN, FRG *[AFP]* 30

Honduras

Bomb Explodes at Economy Ministry; No Injuries *[AFP]* 30
Morazanist Front Propaganda Found *[AFP]* 30
Explosion To Protest Economic Measure *[ACAN]* 31

Panama

Police Make 4 Arrests Ties to ALAS Explosion *[MAGAZINE DOMINICAL EL SIGLO 14 Aug]* . 31
Endara Opposes Creation of 'Temporary Army' *[LA PRENSA 14 Aug]* 32
Others React to President-Elect's Plan *[EL PANAMA AMERICA 14 Aug]* 33

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

Caputo: Policy on Haiti 'Not a Step Backward' *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 34
Court Asks Foreign Ministry To Report on Iranians *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 34
Di Tella Told by Iran's Velayati Motamer 'Impostor' *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 35
Petrella: 'Not Advisable' To Bring Iranian to Argentina *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 35
Government Warns of Possible Terrorist Attack *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 36
Menem Gives 'Precise Instructions' *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 36
Security Measures Implemented *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 36
Further on Security Measures *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 36
Menem Admits Possible Excesses in Security Measures *[AFP]* 37
Coast Guard Arrests Iranian Carrying False Passport *[Buenos Aires TV]* 37

Brazil

Government Experts Minimize Rising Consumption *[AGENCIA ESTADO]* 37

Colombia

Samper Interviewed on Plans for Governing *[EL TIEMPO 7 Aug]* 38

Paraguay

Lebanese Man Arrested in Connection With AMIA *[Lambare Radio]* 41

Peru

Government Announces Stand on Haitian Crisis *[EL COMERCIO 3 Aug]* 42
State of Emergency Extended in 6 Areas *[AFP]* 43

Uruguay

Police on Alert Against Terrorist Attacks *[Madrid EFE]* 43

Venezuela

Burelli: Peace Mission to Haiti To Benefit U.S. *[Caracas Radio]* 44
Burelli: Friends of Haiti Group Not To Form *[EL UNIVERSAL 12 Aug]* 44
Iranian Embassy Denies Argentine Judge's Charges *[EL NACIONAL 12 Aug]* 44

Cuba

Fidel Castro's 8 Aug News Conference

FL1308140094 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 0105 GMT 13 Aug 94

[News conference by President Fidel Castro with unidentified reporters in Santa Fe de Bogota, Colombia, on 8 August—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Commander, you must certainly know of the message that Gabriel Garcia Marquez sent to President Samper. At the end he says: Take care and (?follow your heart's advice) that there is nothing harder than governing the Colombians—in this case he used the word governing—but it is easier to do it with your heart. What does your heart say, Commander?

[Castro] I agree with Garcia Marquez because, well, as usual he is brilliant, as usual he is original in his message, and he elaborated a small government code for Samper. What would he have done if he was elected president one day? Do you remember when some people wanted to elect him?

[Reporter] He did not accept.

[Castro] Was it that he did not accept or that he was not accepted. Which way was it? [laughter] I do not think so. I think he was pressured. I do not think he would like the job that well. I think Garcia Marquez would not be a good president. I would imagine so. Well, he has a lot of imagination, and some think those things are incompatible, but it seems that what is needed to govern is a good imagination. However, when the cinema school was founded in Cuba, I was able to observe some exceptional qualities in Garcia Marquez as an organizer. One imagines that a writer is disorganized, and Garcia Marquez is a very well-organized man and a very good organizer. Back then, I became convinced that if one day he becomes president he would make—I must say it as a friend and admirer—he would make a great president.

Now, he writes brilliant and synthetic things on how one should govern. This was the message that President Samper gave us a copy of. I think there was a mistake in the fax. He said this. He apologized for the deficiencies, but he is brilliant in everything he writes. I think it is true, that you can rule with the heart.

[Reporter] Have you done it with the heart?

[Castro] I have done it with my heart. I do not know if I have done it well, but I did it with my heart [laughs softly], and I have also tried to do it with my head.

[Reporter] Commander, to continue with Garcia Marquez, he also referred much in his book about the loneliness encountered when you are in power. Do you feel that it is...

[Castro, interrupting] I do not think this is his theory, and if Garcia Marquez supports this theory, I do not agree with him, because what is being mentioned here is an autocratic power—an emperor, a Napoleon, and I do not know what, a Reagan [laughs softly], some of those people. Then they imagine the people like a God on Olympus deciding things. I do not think this is like governing. I would say that governing is sharing opinions, views, responsibilities and knowing to assume responsibilities when one has to assume them, because someone has to assume them. That is a bunch of theories. I do not know where this famous theory, about the loneliness encountered when you are in power, came from. I imagine that for many, who were absolute rulers, it must be very lonely. They probably do not have anyone to talk to or consult with to make decisions. Decisions must be adopted sometimes. Sometimes you are fully convinced that something is correct, but I have never felt the strange phenomenon called loneliness in power, because I have always had the habit of sharing as much as possible the responsibility, the opinions, and the criteria.

[Reporter] Therefore...

[Castro, interrupting] Only God can talk about the loneliness encountered when you are in power, according to theology.

[Reporter] Commander, you talk about the importance of ruling with the heart and on the sharing of that responsibility. What better than sharing this responsibility with the people you love, the people you govern?

[Castro] What did you say? What better what?

[Reporter] What better than sharing with the people you love: the Cubans. To this end, following that train of thought, would it not also be possible to share with them some decisions through, let us say, a plebiscite so they may decide their future?

[Castro] You mean sharing responsibility as they do in the United States and in most parts of the world? We would not share it that way. But we do it by giving the people a real participation, consulting the workers, peasants, students, and citizens and placing the power in their hands, because in Cuba, power is not our power. Power belongs to the people. Now, referring to the disturbances some individuals tried to create, ignited by the U.S. policy dealing with immigration issue, the ones who restored order and peace were the people, themselves.

The Cuban Revolution could not be conceived without the people's extraordinary participation. First of all, it could not be defended without the people. How could a small country defend itself against the most powerful nation in the world? Compared to this, the torches Nero used to burn Rome, as I was telling some Colombians, are nothing.

They even own tens of thousands of nuclear weapons and so-called conventional weapons, all sophisticated

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weapons. I cannot understand how a government decidedly identified with the people, who are the essential components of power, can defend itself against such a gigantic and powerful nation. I wonder how many of the so-called representative democracies could perform the feat our people are performing. I know what the word plebiscite means. We have a plebiscite every day.

Yesterday, half a million people met at Revolution Plaza to bid farewell to the sublieutenant who was killed by one of these criminals who hijacked a boat to travel to the United States.

In our country there is a constant plebiscite. In our country there is a Constitution. In our country there have been elections, but that is ignored for a very simple reason, because we do not own the mass media.

The U.S. media spread news around the world, news that is generally published by international media. Everybody knows this very well. Nearly all movies being shown are U.S. movies. Nearly all documentaries come from the United States. We are subjected to U.S. domination. We are living under complete and total subjugation by the influence they exert over their media.

Therefore, what is the participation of the world? What is the participation of the people of the United States? Is it having 40 percent of the population vote every four years to elect a president with 25 percent of votes? That is not democratic or plebiscitary.

In our elections, more than 90 percent of the population participate, and just two years ago, not even two years, we held the elections. Voter turnout was enormous, and it was done amid the most difficult conditions.

Therefore, I can categorically tell you that we share with the people much more than what any other government of the world shares.

[Reporter] Commander, a bit of theory. How self-critical is Commander Fidel Castro about what has happened in socialism? In other words, the collapse [words indistinct]? How hard have you thought about capitalism having good things? As Marx said at some point in history, capitalism was revolutionary at a certain point in history and made great contributions to humanity. How do you foresee the future of socialism, combining all of the good capitalism has and eliminating all of what is bad?

[Castro] Capitalism brought some developments in the technical and economic order. And like Marx said, capitalism was indeed revolutionary in its time in comparison to feudalism. Nevertheless, capitalism also brought about colonialism, slavery, and the extermination of entire peoples—genocide.

I do not know what North American Indians would say if you asked them about the great benefits and the great happiness North American or Western capitalism brought to the U.S. population, and I do not know what Indians from other countries would say. I do not know what Africans would say, either. I do not know what Asians would say. They brought conquest and the most brutal exploitation. They brought slavery, they brought pillaging, and they brought underdevelopment.

Yes, there was development of the production forces. That is undeniable.

Nevertheless, I believe that from an ethical and moral standpoint, although Marx used to say he was a revolutionary in his time—relatively, no?—it has been one of the greatest plagues in the history of mankind. Capitalism also developed techniques in administration, it promoted the use of computation, and it perfected its mechanisms of exploitation. This is true, and I do not see the good things capitalism has anywhere.

Anyone who knows that we are almost 6 billion inhabitants, 80 percent of which live in the Third World; anyone who knows that 40,000 children die every day and that children could be saved; anyone who knows about the tragedy of the Third World—underdevelopment, plagues, diseases; and anyone who knows that capitalism has no solutions for its problems, that capitalism devours itself, that it destroys nature, that it alters the environment, that it hurts the ozone layer, that it poisons the seas and the water, everything, that it has created the worst society, which is the consumer society; anyone who knows this and still relishes this society, let them opt for it, opt for the part of that consumer society they can enjoy, and let them think that capitalism has things worthy of imitation. Nevertheless, I have deliberated a lot about what capitalism has meant to the world. Not only have I seen....[pauses] the wars it has unleashed, the dangers humanity has endured because of it, the damage it has done to nature. I cannot truly feel sympathy for capitalism or its lifestyle.

I ask you, imagine that, following the capitalist models, one day every Chinese citizen will have an automobile; one day every Indian, and they number more than 800 million, will have an automobile; and one day every African will have an automobile. I would like to know where all the fuel will come from. I would like to know how much oxygen will be left on earth to breathe if that model of society is established in the world.

It is a society that is destined to grow, and if it does not grow it will disappear. It is a society that, in order to grow, must use all the natural resources of the sea. It is not a society with a future. Consequently, man must seek other alternatives. You can give it whatever name you like, but it has to become a better organized, more rational, and more humane society. We must look for this. We have been looking for it. In fact, I continue to look for it. Marx looked for it. We call it socialism. We could call it any other name. It could be called a society of solidarity or a humanitarian society.

Nevertheless, this society in which we are living has no future; it cannot represent any kindness or hope for us.

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This is the opinion I have. It is truly a bad opinion. There is no other recourse than to coexist with capitalism, and we do. What else can we do?

[Reporter] One question, somewhat theoretical like the one Hernando asked: Despite the recent disagreement with the United States, Commander, what would you be willing to concede for the sake of reconciliation?

[Castro] If it is a matter of sacrificing our principles, our independence, the country's sovereignty, or the revolution, we are not willing to give up anything.

[Reporter] There was an immigration agreement...

[Castro, interrupting] There was an agreement on various things but the North Americans are not in the habit of complying with them.

[Reporter] What is the status of that agreement?

[Castro] That agreement was reached many years ago. It was an agreement that concerned the reunification of families. They agreed to accept 20,000 Cuban citizens because the reunification of families was going to occur in the richest country, not the poorest. They said that they would grant 20,000 visas a year, and in addition to that, 2,000 or 3,000 additional visas for people who had been imprisoned for counterrevolutionary activities promoted by the United States.

The truth is that they did not comply with the agreement. They granted 1,000 visas, or 2,000, or 3,000, because they rejected the visas. It was part of a strategy, trying to sow discontent, trying to promote opposition in the country. If one of these citizens went to request a visa to enter the United States, he was denied it as a rule. But if he seized a ship, a plane, or committed a crime, if he obtained a boat or was willing to do anything to leave the country, he was received with full honors, with open arms, and granted all the opportunities.

This is not granted to any other citizens in the world, only to Cubans. This is done with the intention of carrying out subversive actions and to promote disorder, disturbances, and demonstrations of discontent.

Now, looking at the political difference, we will authorize the departure of any citizen who wants to leave the country. That is part of our immigration policy. We even authorize the departure of anyone who is of age and wants to travel abroad and return. We will authorize his and his family's departure. They can leave and come back, even though this is not good for our security, because there is a country that for more than 35 years has tried to sabotage us, a country that has even used biological warfare against Cuba.

Therefore, the flow of tens of thousands of people coming and going is dangerous for our society to a certain extent. We have, however, accepted this. We have done this as part of the policy of the revolution. If a Cuban citizen who lives abroad wants to travel to Cuba and return, we authorize him to do so. This is our new immigration policy. At the beginning of the revolution, they wanted to take all of our technicians, our doctors.

We had 6,000 doctors, and they took away 3,000. They were offered better salaries and better living conditions. Today, however, the situation is different. What did we do? We accepted the challenge, and we developed medical schools at the universities. Today we have more than 50,000 doctors. For each one of the doctors they took, we have nearly 17 doctors. So you can see the great effort we made, but we accepted the challenge and continue accepting it.

Now, their policy is not granting permission for legal entries into the United States, while giving all kinds of facilities to those who commit crimes or arrive illegally. Mexicans are not given the same treatment. They have built a wall larger than the Berlin Wall accompanied by sophisticated electronic equipment and wired trenches. Many Mexicans die every year trying to cross the border. They have Coast Guard boats in La Mona Pass to prevent Dominicans from crossing over. They have a squad to prevent Haitians from leaving Haiti, and they are looking for places in Latin America where they can send them. They do not want them there.

The Colombians cannot look forward to being allowed to legally enter the United States. What happens to a Colombian who enters the United States illegally? He is expelled. What happens to any Latin American? He is expelled. What happens if a Chinese boat heads to the United States as recently occurred with a boat that was going to disembark on the Mexican coast? They did everything they could to return the Chinese to China. The U.S. Coast Guard, however, is waiting in the Gulf for anyone who wants to illegally leave Cuba and travels in a boat or a raft. The sad part about this phenomenon is that there are people who hijack a passenger boat carrying women, children, and elderly people while using weapons, grenades, and take them along. They are welcomed there even when they commit a vulgar and repulsive act of piracy. You should see when those women and children return and explain everything on television. That is the policy they follow against us. That is what really led to the incidents which occurred in recent days. It is a difficult situation. In addition, they encourage the immigration.

Mexico is not blocked. It produces nearly 3 million barrels of oil a day. It has industries, it is a developed nation, and it has reserves of tens of thousands of millions in dollars. Nonetheless, more than a million Mexicans cross the border without any blockade or encouragement. Santo Domingo is not blocked. Hundreds of thousands of Mexicans immigrate because there is a phenomenon of immigration from the poorest countries to the most developed ones. It happens in Europe, it happens everywhere, but Cuba is a blocked country. It faces a double blockade. We practically have no trade with the former Socialist countries. Ours is a country that has lost 70 percent of its imports, a country that has lost its markets.

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We are a country that needs to make a heroic effort to survive, to try to become developed under these conditions. A blockade aimed at driving the country into submission through sickness and hunger forces people, logically, to emigrate. These are the exceptional conditions under which Cuba is living. This does not happen in other countries of the world.

What else can we do? We have warned them. Either they adopt measures that stop promoting illegal departures or else we will tell the Boarder Guard forces not to obstruct the departure of any citizens who leave the country illegally or the trips of U.S. boats to pick up relatives. We cannot continue guarding the U.S. border. When an incident happens, and few incidents have occurred, we are held responsible. We must bear the responsibility. They accuse us of being cruel and inhuman, and yet we have no interest in preventing the departure of any citizen.

We have only been fulfilling basic obligations so that the country's laws are respected, but we are not inconvenienced by or object to allowing the departure of those who want to leave on their own. It is the U.S. responsibility not ours. Anyone wishing to come....[pauses] we are guarding the coasts to prevent the arrival of boats from the United States, guarding the coasts to prevent boats from leaving Cuba for the United States. Why should we render that service?

We have told them: Well, either you adopt measures or we will suspend the obstacles so the persons who want to legally leave may do so. This is our position we are maintaining.

[Cueto] Commander, I am Cueto Manrique from EL ESPECTADOR newspaper. Does this mean there is a term to allow a massive exodus of people to the United States?

[Castro] No. There is no term, no term has been set. We have said, however, a quick and efficient solution must be found. That is what we said. This matter is not one of massive emigrations. They are receiving today a large number of people, hundreds of people per month, who are illegally emigrating.

They are the ones causing massive emigration due to the blockade by driving the country into submission through sickness and hunger and by promoting illegal departures. They are the ones causing this phenomenon, but we have said it. Large-scale immigrations no. We will simply eliminate the obstacles to allow those wishing to leave to do so, or allow those who wish to pick up their relatives on their own to come, if there is no—the words are, literally, quick and efficient—solution.

[Cueto] Quick and efficient. Is that the key to open Cuban borders?

[Castro] The Cuban borders are legally open. What I mean is to stop adopting the measures we adopted to prevent these illegal departures.

[Mondenare] Fernando Mondenare, COLPRESS news agency. Commander, what do the Cuban people expect with Cesar Gaviria as OAS secretary general? Are there new perspectives, or will everything remain the same?

[Castro] We do not have a crystal ball, but we were very pleased when Gaviria's candidacy was announced. We are not an active OAS member, so we do not vote, but we do express our affection and support for Gaviria's candidacy. There are several factors to keep in mind, such as personality and character.

The post of secretary general of the OAS is a very important one that the United States tries to control. We have seen this, but it has not always been successful. We cannot say that [Joao] Baena Soares has been a candidate controlled by the United States. We were glad to hear that Gaviria is the candidate for this post. He is a well-known person, he is talented, and capable, he has a strong personality, he has been friendly with our country, and he has promoted diplomatic relations. Therefore, you see, we would prefer a person with these characteristics be the secretary general of the OAS.

We wish there were a better role model. We would like to see someone as Simon Bolivar fighting for Latin American integration, justice, and Latin American independence. I believe Gaviria believes this opportunity is an exceptional one, and we hope he will perform his duties with honesty, justice and talent. I see him as a friend, not an enemy. We have had some enemies there in the OAS. I honestly see Gaviria as a friendly person. We have had several encounters at the summits over these years, the meetings at Cartagena de Indias. When one knows someone toward whom one feels affection, one is glad when that person can occupy such an important yet difficult post.

You know our northern neighbors. We know them better than you do, but you will get to know them better and better, because I do not believe they will be treating you with the consideration or the respect you deserve. They are used to wanting to impose their viewpoint and their opinion. There were several reported incidents just recently demonstrating their open intention of wanting to interfere in Colombia's internal affairs. I would rather not expand on that issue.

[Reporter] Do you blame the island's problems on the U.S. blockade? You are looking right now for foreign investment for several of the island's economic sectors in an attempt to overcome the blockade and within the new trend of coexisting with capitalism. Let's suppose the United States lifts the blockade. Would you be willing to accept U.S. investments under the same conditions you hold with other countries?

[Castro] Let me make one thing clear first. One thing is to cohabit, another to coexist. I may be mistaken, but a married couple cohabits. I may be mistaken, but a married couple sometimes coexists. These are two different terms. [chuckles] We are willing to coexist with

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capitalism, but not to cohabit with capitalism. We do not blame everything on the blockade.

The blockade became much more serious and much more harmful for us when the Socialist bloc disappeared and the USSR crumbled. While the USSR and the Soviet bloc existed, our economic and commercial relations with those countries included loans, financing, and fair prices for our products, something we have been demanding for all Third World products. This made the struggle against the blockade much easier for us. The blockade became more terrible and more serious when the Socialist bloc and the USSR disappeared. I would say it became doubly, three times, five times, ten times worse when the Socialist bloc and the USSR disappeared.

We lost our fuel supply, our prices, our credits, our markets, and all the pillars that provided support to the country in light of the blockade. All those things vanished while the blockade remained. Even trade with the Socialist countries and the former Soviet Union vanished. This entire occurrence increasingly worsened our situation. We fought—did not lose heart, we did not despair—to overcome all the obstacles, to which you must include our status as an underdeveloped nation.

Not just Cuba but a large part of Latin America is in our situation. Certain Latin American countries possess an enormous wealth, plentiful, natural resources, and even earn thousands upon thousands—more than $10 billion every year—but these countries have very serious economic problems despite these aspects, and they do not have a blockade with which to deal.

The entire Third World, Bangladesh, India, countries from all continents, are suffering the consequences of the so-called underdevelopment, which resulted from colonialism in the past centuries and the exploitation which we suffered. We also have those problems. You can add we are not perfect. We have not achieved a perfect deed. We have done the best we can, as perfect as we have been able to, but there have been mistakes and flaws. Did we use our resources in these past years, the past decade in the best possible way? I could not tell you, but I can tell you we are exerting an increasingly bigger effort to optimize our resources; and the blockade is a heavy burden upon the shoulders of our country. The United States sabotages all our efforts for economic opening, which is what you referred to, and foreign investment. They discourage everyone who wants to invest here. We can say they frustrate nine out of 10 investment prospects. We must import all products from long distances.

It is not that countries do not want to trade with us. What happens is they approve legislation such as the Torricelli Law and impose sanctions against countries that trade with us and companies established in other countries that trade with us. This is not a U.S., unilateral policy against Cuba but, rather, a universal one.

We do not want the blockade, of course; to think otherwise would be illogical, an absurd detriment. There are many North Americans who want to invest in Cuba, and we have proof. If the North Americans want to invest in Cuba, they are as welcome as the Spaniards, Colombians, Argentines, Mexicans, and citizens from any other country without discriminations of any sort. They would have the same advantages available to others.

[Reporter] The concern is that this situation would result in a large number of private employees working in a socialist system. How would that work?

[Fidel] This would definitely be an entirely new and difficult situation, which is being faced by China and Vietnam. We must face a blockade, however, in our situation. A country needs capital, technology, and markets to develop. A lack of all three elements constitutes a problem, and sometimes, we have none of them. We are missing one element at times; other times we lack two of the three, technology or markets, and especially capital. As a result, we are facing a dead end situation. We must be able to resolve it, but not to sell the country. Our goal during this special period is to save the motherland. We do not want to become another Puerto Rico. You must understand, however, we do not want to give up the revolution and the achievements of socialism.

We are not saying we will be building socialism but we will be defending the accomplishments of socialism. Everything socialism has done for the people is much more than health, education, sports, dignity, equality, justice, and jobs for everyone, things that are difficult to achieve under these conditions. We will try to accomplish them, however, in one way or another, using creativity and the imagination. We are defending everything that can be defended from the people's properties.

We began establishing joint ventures, especially in the tourism sector, in the hotels, and we can extend that to other branches of our economy. We can share goods, but in such areas as oil, we cannot even do what you are doing. I do not know whether you have become more socialist than us. The thing is that you have not had the need we had: agreeing with foreign companies are simply conducting risky business operations. They have the capital and the technology to drill for the oil that our country has. This implies, of course, having to make concessions, but this is nothing new.

All of you who have read and who are politically aware know even Lenin had no intention of immediately instituting socialism in the old empire of the czars. Lenin wanted to build a capitalism under the control of workers. We would have to ask Lenin how he planned to do it. He did trust in the power of people and workers, and he believed the optimal conditions to institute socialism were not present.

The USSR was fiercely blocked, isolated, and even forced to lay aside principles. Socialism could not be instituted within a single country. They even tried to accomplish a major goal of instituting socialism within a

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single country; this was not Lenin's idea, but the total blockade and isolation forced them to do it, as was widely discussed as a theory and as an international political movement. There were no other chances other than instituting socialism within a single country.

We also had to institute socialism within a single country, partly because we were blocked, isolated, and forced to depend on the only thing available: the socialist bloc and the USSR. In our case, the process of instituting socialism in a single country was expedited. All these circumstances combined to speed up the forging of socialism in Cuba. We added a bit of the revolutionary fervor we all had, as well as a bit of the revolutionary impatience all revolutionaries have, to speed up the process of instituting socialism.

We are now compelled to make rectifications. We were previously making rectifications to improve ourselves; this is one of the questions you asked. I had not answered it before, because I was discussing another issue. Socialism needed to be improved, not destroyed. Even before Gorbachev started talking about perestroyka, we had already started talking about making rectifications in Cuba to perfect our Socialism, which, undoubtedly, had many mistakes and defects.

We had to save Socialism. Someone said we cannot throw the baby out with the water; this is just what they did in the Soviet Union: They threw the baby, the dirty water, the dirty diapers, and the bucket out of the window; this is a reality, but this is not what we did. We wanted to rectify what we were doing.

This position has many disadvantages; no one can deny it. The Chinese face and will face disadvantages, but they must continue to fight, but you will notice they did not do what the Soviets did. The Soviets destroyed the state, the party, history, everything. The Chinese destroyed nothing. Although they suffered the consequences of Mao's mistakes, they did not destroy his accomplishments. They recognized his accomplishments; they did not destroy the party or the state. They started making political reforms, and it worked out well. No other country is experiencing the economic growth China is experiencing. The Vietnamese are making similar social reforms with the help of foreign capital investments.

It is a new experience. We are doing the same, but to a lesser degree, because the conditions are not the same. We studied the Chinese experience, and the Vietnamese experience—for whatever it was applicable. Nothing can be mechanically implemented. One of our problems, contrary to China and Vietnam, is that while 80 percent of the Chinese population is rural and lives in the countryside and 80 percent of the Vietnamese population is also rural, 80 percent of the Cuban population lives in the city.

All the productive processes were mechanized: land preparation, planting, reaping. We began to use technical means, chemicals such as pesticides, herbicides, and established large irrigation programs, all of which consume fuel. Transportation was mechanized. Construction was mechanized. The docks, the construction of highways, speedways, everything was mechanized, and many people went to the city. We now have to find food for them in the city, because it is easy to bring people to the city but to take them back to the rural areas is more difficult. I do not know how you would manage to take Bogota's 6.5 million inhabitants back to the countryside.

I believe there were half a million inhabitants when I was here 46 years ago, and now you have 6.5 million. I was looking at the street from the hotel window this morning and saw it had been widened. There was an unending line of buses. I am told it sometimes takes them half an hour to move one kilometer; this is one of the things that undermines the environment. Furthermore, I must tell the truth, it took me a while to fall sleep because the noise level [laughs] can be heard in this great hotel. If you have the misfortune of having to go to bed very late, the horns and motors of the cars wake you up. [laughs]

There are two kinds of immigration: the immigration that goes from underdeveloped to developed countries. This is one of the greatest fears of the developed, capitalist world nowadays. They are terrified of what will happen with a population explosion and the immigrants' invasion. They worry about those things a great deal. Such situations are all associated with development. They are also horrified with contamination. I was saying, however, there are two immigrations. From poor countries to rich countries; from the countryside to the city.

How Latin America suffers that immigration! Tremendous. Look at Sao Paulo, with its 18 million inhabitants. Look at Mexico City with its almost 20 million inhabitants. Look at Rio de Janeiro with its 10 or 12 million inhabitants. Look at the cities. Look at Caracas, it also has approximately 5 million inhabitants. Look at yourselves.

We also have the same situation in our country. In addition, everyone has become a teacher, a professor, a physician, an engineer; this makes us very happy. We have filled the country with universities, and we are now establishing technological schools and schools for agricultural workers, because agriculture is hard work, but agriculture is not so hard here, because you work in an air-conditioned climate. It is much better than working the land in the tropics under a terrible sun and in very high temperatures.

That was obvious yesterday. Let me cut sugarcane at the temperature we had yesterday during the change of government ceremony. It was delightful. You feel stimulated to work, but send a citizen to cut sugarcane at 37, 38, 40 degrees with a relative humidity of 85 percent. The people left for the city. This predicament is a terrible and still unresolved one.

Immigration did not occur in such a high measure in our country, or, rather, the people did not go to the capital

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city. We developed several cities. There was a general development in the cities, and that is why we did not have those terrible phenomenons, meaning the shanty-towns. We built and developed all the regions in the country.

But the fact of the matter is that the people went to the countryside. As I told you before, we filled the country with universities. We have more than 500,000 university graduates. Thus, the revolution did its own work, and the very work of the revolution changed the way of thinking, changed everything at a particular time. Our problem today is finding labor in the countryside, because we have had to return to many manual activities. We have returned to animal-pulled farming techniques, ox carts. We are using oxen again, whenever we can find them.

There are many medium-sized cities in our country where transportation is pulled by animals. Many tasks are pulled by animals in the farming sector. The bicycle has become...[pauses] I believe Cuba comes next to China or the Netherlands concerning the use of bicycles, the Dutch do it for sport, the Chinese for need. Our cities and country have been filled with bicycles; this is something we have been able to accomplish, because there is a national willingness to do so, regardless of the needs. We are making a big effort to keep our island independent and to fulfill Marti's dream. He said with Cuba's independence he wanted to prevent the United States from extending its influence over the peoples of America. You pay us nothing for our being the first trench there, for our defending Latin America's independence in this era.

[Reporter] Ernesto Samper said in his inauguration speech he will focus on social issues, something he proposed 20 years ago; it is not new. He said he will see to it that human rights are respected. He said he will sponsor, on behalf of Colombia, the signing of the Geneva Protocol and said he wants to make a last-ditch peace effort. How can you possibly help him in this task of attaining peace to benefit the government, country, and the guerrillas?

[Castro] No one should support a last-ditch effort, because there should be no last-ditch peace efforts.

[Reporter] I mean to attain peace.

[Castro] You can help attain peace. First of all, you can hope there is peace, to cooperate as much as possible without interfering in the country's internal affairs. Obviously, this has always been our concern, but I would like for there to be peace. If it were up to us to cooperate, modestly, in the attainment of peace, I would accept it. You have even seen the good relations between both peoples have improved. I believe...

[Reporter, interrupting] This is the first time you attend a Colombian president's inauguration?

[Castro] Yes. It was the first time. He told me this. He said he expected everyone's cooperation in this concern. I believe the most I can do is to wish a country such as Colombia peace so that it can develop in peace, with justice. I have no contradiction with the statements made yesterday by President Samper. He mentioned a few additional things, one of which you did not say is very important. He said it twice. In the beginning—I will have to read the speech again—and in the middle of his speech. He said he would not allow anyone in the world to come and tell Colombia how it should solve its problems and deal with the drug trafficking issue. This is something very important he said and I applauded this. I said: This is not internal; this is the defense of sovereignty. He later stressed the issue of peace, and he did it with a serene language, without arrogance, stating this should be everyone's contribution, participation, and obligation. This is an important point of his speech.

He also said what you stated...[pauses] He had already told me about it in a brief conversation during the morning, which was held with others who attended the breakfast. He said he wanted a political alternative with social justice. He did not want an alternative of liberalism or neoliberalism, only an alternative of economic development with social justice. He said he was going to emphasize this point.

I have not heard all his speeches, of course. I do not know whether he has said this before, but I was positively impressed by how he analyzed the situation.

I have no reason whatsoever to doubt the sincerity of his words. He also talked about...[pauses] I do not understand this topic very much. I am not very familiar with the importance of signing the Geneva Protocol, but he said all Colombians were obligated to observe international law as well as the Constitution and laws of the country; this is how I interpreted it. He also talked about the international policy he would implement, and he talked about the Nonaligned Movement [NAM].

I believe NAM is of great importance, especially in today's world. NAM previously existed to confront the dangers of a bipolar world, but we need it more today to confront the terrible dangers of a unipolar world; that is why I give so much importance to NAM. I must say we firmly, emphatically, and with great interest back the initiative that Colombia hold the next NAM presidency. I do not want to get too much into this issue so as not to meddle in internal affairs, but I was really imagining Samper as NAM president. This is not meddling in internal affairs, but, rather, expressing a wish.

It could have been different. I do not know how things happened because I read it [words indistinct]. It is not for me to proclaim it, but I am compelled to point this out as a reality due to our solidarity with all those countries, the UN, Africa, Asia. We have many, many, many friends, and if all of a sudden the NAM presidency had launched a war on us then we would have bitterly regretted our backing Colombia's proposal to be the NAM presidency. For this reason, I was pleased when I heard Samper's words regarding the NAM. I believe

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there is almost a promise to hold another meeting here. I do not know whether it will be held in Cartagena or Santa Fe de Bogota. Just in case I get to go, I already have my guayabera [traditional white, men's shirt worn in Latin America] ready to go to Cartagena. [laughter] I do not have a coat to sustain the cold here, though.

My aide-de-camp, who is a very nice and intellectual man, thought we could encounter cold weather, and he took several steps to ensure emergency measures could be taken so we did not die of pneumonia. I do not know where the government plans to hold this meeting. But do not forget about this issue; do not underestimate it; and it is advantageous for Colombia. I believe Colombia is in an upward period: the post of OAS secretary general, the NAM presidency. Do you, by chance, have plans to seek the UN secretary general's post too? [laughter] I support you.

[Reporter] I can tell you the new foreign minister said one of the international priorities was precisely the NAM.

[Castro] I believe this is very important. It is of great importance to Colombia's interests, prestige, and independence. It is important to carry out its policy and strategy against drug trafficking, which, according to what has been stated, requires international cooperation, for all countries to cooperate. I can assure you it is very advantageous for Colombia to have the NAM presidency.

[Reporter] You are very well informed about Colombia.

[Castro] I should be more informed, though.

[Reporter] You even know the total population of Santa Fe de Bogota as according to the latest figures released by the National Administrative Department of Statistics. You know quite a bit about us. What is your opinion of the armed conflict in the country? There is even a guerrilla group calling itself pro-Castro.

[Castro] We had relations for a time. To be honest, time is what has changed Latin America. As I said, Latin America practically joined in a confrontation against Cuba in the early years. There is no lie in admitting this. We had relations, but they are history. Latin America's relations with Cuba have changed completely. We adhere to the principle of respecting those who respect us, and we enforce in an inflexible and intransigent manner the principle of not meddling in the internal affairs of other countries. This has to be reciprocated. This sort of principle will be in force in our hemisphere and give rise to major changes in our relations with almost all of the countries of Latin America, or perhaps all of them with a few exceptions.

While we were fighting a cruel battle against foreign debt in 1985, we decided our priority for those times we were living should be the integration of Latin America, the unification of Latin America, Latin America's struggle for development, Latin America's struggle for independence. I said something at that time many people did not agree with, but I was sincere when I said it. Socialism was not on the agenda. We never meddled, of course. If a country wanted to build socialism, they were free to build it. If a country wanted to have a revolution, they were free to have it. In 1985—and the records are still there—we said the main issue was unity, unity within each country and among all countries. That has influenced our political way of thinking regarding all of these other issues. We are zealous defenders of sovereignty, and we feel we could even do without sovereignty one day.

Bolivar wanted a united Latin America, and we are ready to give up our sovereignty, as I said before, in favor of unity throughout Latin America. We are willing to do so not to become a part of a balkanized continent but, rather, of a continent that is one of the main forces in the world. The world is beginning to organize itself into large blocs and forces. China is a large force, as is Europe and southeast Asia, and the United States is another large force. I cannot conceive a Latin America integrated with the United States, which is what the United States would like. We want to integrate among ourselves, and the United States wants to integrate us into it.

These issues, based on our aspirations, are the priority ones. As long as we are not integrated we must remain independent. We must respect each other. One can express one's best wishes, but one cannot tell other countries, political parties, or organizations what to do. You can find here in Latin America right this minute one country carrying out an extreme type of neoliberal policy, while another's is less extreme, yet another's is more moderate, and each one is doing what it believes best. I believe we need peace, but we need it for something specific. We need it to develop. We need it to integrate. We need it for there to be justice, social justice. We need it to prevent almost 1 million children from dying each year of preventable diseases. We need it to solve problems such as those President Samper outlined yesterday. He spoke of raising the people's quality of life. Almost 46 percent are below the extreme poverty line.

That is not Colombia's situation. Colombia is better off than many other Latin American countries. I would like to see peace being associated with integration and social justice. We are willing to cooperate as much as possible with those goals and values, and we are cooperating in a sense. We have substantially improved our relations with Colombia, and we abide by the inviolable principle of respect for the sovereignty of every country.

I can assure you we would always support Colombia in any situation where its sovereignty was being violated, where its sovereignty was not being respected. We would never defend Colombia, but we would unrestrictedly support the principle of noninterference in a country's internal affairs. If we all become a great community of nations some day, organized as any other organization, and if we are told the socialist system must be put aside, because there is no other way to achieve integration, we would be willing to sacrifice our particular preferences for the sake of Latin America's integration, development, and justice. As for independence, I am not talking

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of countries but, rather, of our region. I am speaking of the hope they do not devour, swallow us. I am referring to the hope, the idea that some day we are what we should be. Within all this concept, you can be absolutely positive—I have extended myself in the explanation—that we will decidedly cooperate with every noble effort to achieve peace.

[Reporter] Commander, Colombian-Cuban relations are excellent. I believe we never had such good relations before the Gaviria administration. Do you expect relations to remain the same during the Samper administration, to the extent you would be able to carry out a negotiation on oil issues, which is a topic on your agenda with Colombia?

[Castro] We hope relations will continue to develop. I believe an excellent foundation has been laid, and favorable conditions have been established. I was invited by Gaviria and Samper. We have many common friends; we have met many leaders, many cadres. We have common friends in the cultural and scientific areas, among others. I had the chance of meeting this prominent scientist who invented the malaria vaccine.

[Reporter] [Manuel Elkin] Patarroyo.

[Castro] He deserves to be awarded a Nobel Prize for his contribution to science. We have relations in the health and cultural areas. I have a longstanding, youthful friendship with Gabriel Garcia Marquez, with whom we often meet and talk. In sum, all kinds of ties have been established. Before meeting with you today, I met with a solidarity group; very kind, good, and noble people. All these actions and meetings are dangerous because we discuss political topics, although there is nothing more dangerous than a meeting with journalists. It was a very respectful and friendly meeting.

I want to tell you something in particular. I feel an increasing sympathy and affection for Colombians. I can say the more I know you and deal with you, the more I love you. I admire your industriousness, among other things. I was able to visit the San Pedro Alejandrino farm, which was not a little house at all but, rather, a major and important place. I think it should be called the memorial or memorial museum to Bolivar, because it includes the art museum, the plaza, and all the facilities—22 hectares. There is a mural. There is so much more than one can imagine, and it is lovingly cared for by 27 people. Only 27 people look after the grounds and keep everything in excellent condition.

I am telling you—and it is not my desire to criticize my countrymen—there would be at least 80 or 100 people, perhaps a kitchen or cook, in Cuba. I was amazed and congratulated the workers there. Colombians are hard workers. I believe this country has the right to achieve progress, to go far, and I believe that is what they plan. That is why at the same time I talk about my views of peace, I encourage them to exert their best efforts to achieve peace, and one should never talk of a last-ditch effort.

[Reporter] What did you feel when you saw the place where Bolivar died?

[Castro] It is a moving, hospitable place.

[Reporter] Talking about oil, what is the status of the negotiations?

[Castro] Regarding oil, something I did not mention, I was going to say we are not self-seeking friends. We are not Phoenicians. We prefer to let friendship come first and business second, not business first and friendship second.

[Reporter] What is your message to those who want to get you out of Cuba and even talk of Castro's final hour?

[Castro] What would you reply?

[Reporter] What is your answer to all those who...

[Castro, interrupting] My reply to them is that I do not do my work for pleasure; it is my duty.

The work I do is a sacrifice. I think it is unfair that we have had to spend so many years struggling, waging the same battle, but it would be treacherous on my part if I abandon the battlefield. As I recall, none of the liberators of this hemisphere has abandoned the battlefield before gaining the independence of his country. Sucre did not leave the battlefield, he died, despite the fact he did not like it much. Bolivar was appointed president [words indistinct].

Revolutionaries never abandon the battlefield. Revolutionaries do not go into retirement as long as they are useful, as long as their services and efforts are required. But, if you ask me, I would prefer that there be peace, that they do not threaten to destroy us, and that there were no blockade to enable me to devote my time to reading—I like to read a lot—and writing. I also like to write. I would then resign myself to dying in bed.

Personally, I find no problem in exercising power. This, by the way, is a hard task. When specific functions are not carried out for selfish reasons, for money, pleasure, or vanity, no one clings to that entity called government, which is one of the most ungrateful things in the world.

I would like to be like Garcia Marquez, who goes from one place to the other, wherever he wants to go, to write and do whatever he wants. I would like to be a painter, or a scientist who conducts research. I can assure you that I chose the hardest work anyone can do and that what I am doing is complying with my duty. If those who want to see me away from all this can make that possible, but with honor and dignity, I would be very grateful to all of them.

Fidel Castro 11 Aug News Conference

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[News conference by President Fidel Castro with unidentified correspondents at the Cuban Institute of Radio

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and Television immediately following his televised interview on 11 August in Havana—recorded]

[Text] [Castro] [Words indistinct] they do not want them there, these people of a superior race. They are of a superior race and do not want these elements there. Now, they face this problem.

[Correspondent] Commander, how long will you wait for a serious response from the United States?

[Castro] We will wait for as long as necessary. The problem is no longer ours but theirs. We are calm. They created the problem. We can afford to wait. The longer they take, the worse it will be for them. They have generated the so-called mass exodus.

[Correspondent] Commander, you referred in your interview to five ships off the Haitian coast that are carrying out antidrug maneuvers in Latin America. They reportedly would form a kind of chain in the event that there is a Cuban exodus toward the United States. What does this mean for Cuba?

[Castro] No, that is their problem. I guess they know how to stop boats. We do not know how. They will run the risk of causing accidents if they try to intercept boats. Who knows how many ships have capsized or will capsize trying to avoid them. We do not mix the drug trafficking problem with this problem. We will continue implementing the antidrug measures that we have been implementing up to now. They do not run any risk.

[Correspondent] Commander, our newsroom just learned that a U.S.-Cuban ship that entered our waters to pick up 22 people has been detained. This is interesting in light of U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno's remarks, which describe these measures as impulsive and extreme [words indistinct].

[Castro] Perhaps there was [words indistinct].

[Correspondent] Three boats so far.

[Correspondent] Commander, U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno made another remark to which I would like you to respond. She said: Our policy has always been to invite Cubans to use normal immigration channels.

[Castro] They won't give it to them. They may have invited them, but they do not give them permission to enter. They did in the past. They wanted to take our doctors, technicians, etc., at the beginning of the Revolution.

[Correspondent] It has always been U.S. policy...

[Castro, interrupting] That is a lie...

[Correspondent, interrupting] To invite Cubans to use normal immigration channels.

[Castro] That is a complete lie.

[Correspondent, in English with passage-by-passage translation into Spanish] Mr. President, I am Mary Murray, from NBC News. We have two questions we'd like you to answer. It seems that during tonight's interview you made a political link between the Clinton administration needing to end the blockade, the trade ban against Cuba, and resolving the immigration crisis. Is that accurate?

[Castro] That is logical, because the blockade is what compels large-scale immigration the most. If you do not discuss those problems, if those problems are not solved, then we would be deceiving ourselves. The large-scale immigration problem will not be solved. That is what I meant.

[Correspondent, in English with passage-by-passage translation into Spanish] So, does that mean the United States, the Clinton administration, will have to tell you that they are willing to talk about ending the blockade before they sit down with Cuba?

[Castro] Yes, I believe it will not be easy to solve the problems they have created, and they will not be solved overnight. However, ending the blockade would be an essential and decisive step.

[Correspondent, in English with passage-by-passage translation into Spanish] And Mr. President, are you...

[Castro, interrupting] Although it would not be the only step. It would be necessary to do other things, like I explained tonight.

[Correspondent, in English with passage-by-passage translation into Spanish] Mr. President, are you still thinking about opening up Cuban ports to U.S. boats?

[Castro] No, no, no. I cannot discuss what I think. I cannot reveal everything that I think. [chuckles]

[Correspondent] Commander, referring to the comrade's navy lieutenant's assassin, will Cuba demand that he be tried or at least propose that he be tried or sent here?

[Castro] That issue is not important. No, no...[pauses] We would like justice to prevail. We want them to punish him.

[Correspondent] What would Cuba want?

[Castro] I think that...[pauses] It is all the same to me. He can be punished there or punished here. They have him there, and I doubt very much that they will dare send him here. They are afraid of the protests from the mafiosi and fascist elements there.

[Correspondent] But, in case they...

[Castro, interrupting] If they punish him, we would be satisfied.

[Correspondent] We could provide the means.

[Castro] Of course, but I do not believe in that. [chuckles] They have deceived us too many times. They have carried out the deceitful maneuver of threatening to punish and to do this and that. They have threatened,

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but they have never punished anyone. The most [words indistinct] have Orlando Bosch, who killed...[pauses] who is the main culprit in the airline explosion, and he is free to walk the Miami streets. What do you expect?

[Correspondent] It was reported during your interview tonight that the assassin [Lionel Macia, the man accused of killing Lieutenant Roberto Aguilar Reyes during a recent boat hijacking, who is currently being held in the United States] has been sent to a state prison. Is that part of...

[Castro, interrupting] That is part of the process. They are in a tight spot. They are in an embarrassing situation. They were fooled. They believed the lie that the one who was killed was really the one who hijacked the boat. They now must do something to cover up for appearances. These are no more than appearances.

[Correspondent] Nevertheless, they have imprisoned him but have not taken measures against the others who hijacked the other boats.

[Castro] They believe they have taken measures. A jury would not condemn them. They have applauded and encouraged these actions. They need to condemn themselves.

[Correspondent] Do you think it is just another U.S. trick, this appearance of seriousness and justice, prompted by fears of another Mariel boat lift?

[Castro] They fear many things right now. They fear international public opinion. They also fear Cuba's reaction and response. They are afraid.

[Correspondent] Commander, how would you describe—and this is the last question I will ask, so that my colleagues also get a chance—the editorials of THE NEW YORK TIMES and THE WASHINGTON POST?

[Castro] I did not get a chance to read them in detail. I glanced over them.

[Correspondent] And what was your opinion on these newspapers, with so much influence...

[Castro, interrupting] I agreed with some points. It is interesting that they made this the topic of their editorials.

[Correspondent] For example, THE NEW YORK TIMES states: The United States is trapped in a dilemma that it created itself.

[Castro] That is true.

[Correspondent] Commander, the Cuban people have faced several unfortunate incidents. Do you think that these events could create a certain level of insecurity...

[Castro, interrupting] I do not think so.

[Correspondent] And do you think these incidents could encourage...

[Castro, interrupting] No, on the contrary. The antisocials who want to go to the earthly paradise welcome anything that will get them there. Those over there who want to reunite with their families or those who are asking for visas would also welcome anything that would help them achieve their purpose. I imagine that some of these people hope for that. The [word indistinct] elements have no possibilities because there are people who have legal possibilities, but they are not given visas. They are not authorized to enter that country. U.S. law allows for it, but they are not granted visas. The immense majority of these figures are also denied visas. They welcome anything that will help them. You could say that they are trapped: On the one hand, they do not want these people to immigrate; on the other hand, they encourage the exodus of these people. They do not want these people to go there legally. This is all very strong propaganda against the Revolution.

[Correspondent] I ask this because every time there is an incident like this, each Cuban asks himself: When will these incidents end, incidents that undermine our nation and our integrity?

[Castro] Yes, they ask themselves this for good reason. However, we must also be level-headed when we act. I would say that this type of person deserves to be punished harshly. They are traitors, and our people always seek the harshest treatment for traitors and turncoats. In reality, a government's responsibilities do not allow it to order violent measures, repressive measures. There are many people who wish we would kill those people, but we cannot do this. We cannot relinquish our standards, our principles, and advocate violent repression. On the contrary, we try to avoid it, not only as a matter of principle but also because this is what they want. They want us to impose violent repression. They want us to modify our laws. They want to get us to exceed ourselves. It is much better to act according to the principles and truth. What we say can be proven. They tell lies and more lies. People believe what we say. Those over there are the first to believe. If we say we will open this port and offer such facilities, they know that it is true and come with complete confidence. If we guarantee that they can come, they will come because they trust us. They believe our word. They have demonstrated this on different occasions. Many of them are extremists, the population with radical points of view.

We cannot allow ourselves to get carried away with outrage or with extremism or radicalism. That is how it should be. That has strengthened our Revolution. When people react as they reacted the other day in light of the violence and protests, they react because it is a revolution of principles and morals. We even prefer to risk casualties under certain circumstances.

It is very different to speak of a foreign invasion. We must have a tremendous amount of self-control and cannot abuse our power when we fight unarmed individuals. We are convinced of this political practice, even

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though I know some are radical and always want what they call an iron fist because they detest what they have done. If we allow ourselves to get carried away, then we are giving the enemy a powerful instrument to push world opinion into isolating us by presenting us as a repressive society of assassins and many other things.

I was saying that if a police battalion had broken up the demonstrations that were held the other day and several people had been shot, they would have used this against us. Nevertheless, it proves the opposite when the people respond. Where else does this happen? I have always believed in the importance of the masses confronting these manifestations and the masses being the ones to confront these situations and the weapons being saved for the invaders or the mercenaries. It is a different story when they are armed. However, since they want to provoke us, they have done all in their power to provoke us.

Our coast guard saved 25 people in the capsizing. They have blamed our government for the drownings. The coast guard saved them. The ship would have probably sunk with all those people on board. What coast-...[pauses] What do you call them?

[Correspondent] The coast guard?

[Castro] No, not the coast guard. The tugboat workers, the tugboat workers did not tell anybody. The others had [word indistinct] all the communications. They did not try to sink the tugboat but to prevent the tugboat from being stolen. As a matter of fact [words indistinct] kept its distance. They hit the tugboat. Of course, [words indistinct] at night and at sea. It would have been better for them not to have followed them.

However, the U.S. Government implied that Cuban authorities were responsible for the incident. Our authorities had nothing to do with the incident. It was the reaction of the workers themselves. Are we now going to take away our workers' morals? It would have been better if the accident had not taken place, but those workers did not want to lose their boat. It was an accident and unintentional.

The story about the capsized boat traveled around the world. Who knows how many Haitian ships they have capsized. Who knows how many thousands of Haitians have died. Ah, but this boat, where it took place, it sunk by accident. They blamed the whole thing on the government and the Revolution. Our coast guard saved 25 lives. The other six people were rescued by the others. However, they were on their way at the time. They were not yet there.

Furthermore, our coast guard has been instructed not to shoot or intercept the boats. They have been instructed to proceed in that manner. Of course, all this may encourage a bit. They feel that... [pauses] It is a fact that we will not guard U.S. coasts. That is a fact.

[Correspondent] Commander, will we take measures to protect our ships and...

[Castro, interrupting] We must take action. I said this the other day, but see how even this measure—having an officer on the boat—he was betrayed—has not prevented this. Measures must be adopted with the airplanes and the boats. No, we have to adopt precautionary measures—on land, rather than on water—to prevent the theft of an airplane or a boat. Once on the water and with people on board, it is better that they leave. Instructions had already been issued to the Border Guard Troops on how to act and all that, but we cannot continue like this. They want no one to come here from over there. Let them handle that unpleasant task.

[Correspondent] Nevertheless, over there they say that you want to dictate U.S. immigration policy.

[Castro] They want to dictate our policy. If the conditions and the willingness have been created for what they call a mass exodus, then they have been the ones to create this problem. They cannot expect us to solve their immigration problems. It is not the same.

[Correspondent] Commander, how could this be used during the upcoming Latin American summit, in Miami? How did the Latin American presidents in Colombia feel about these latest incidents?

[Castro] They did not even mention the incidents. Everyone is busy with other things. On the contrary, [Cuban Foreign Minister] Roberto [Robaina] was telling me that many foreign ministers were very impressed with the fact that I had attended Samper's inauguration. With the campaign that was being waged, they wanted everyone to believe that we were facing a difficult and complicated situation. They were very impressed and satisfied that the Cuban delegation attended the ceremony. I was treated very well.

Clinton himself does not even know what the Miami summit is all about. They do not have an agenda nor do they know what will be discussed or what will be done. They made that up, and by demagogy they hold it in Miami. Now, they do not know what to do with that. That is the truth.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, as you know, President Clinton lost an important vote in Congress on his Crime Bill. How do you think you can negotiate with Clinton when he is losing his popularity? Do you think he would agree to meet you?

[Castro] We have never been opposed to negotiations. He is the one who has not wanted to negotiate with us. We negotiate with whoever wants to negotiate with us, whether he is up or down. It would not be right not to want to talk to someone because he is losing points or ratings. We realize that he is the President who is recognized by the United Nations and internationally. It is truly worrisome that Clinton has lost popularity, because one does not know what forces could emerge. If Clinton weakens and other forces emerge, more progressive forces...[pauses] But no one can guarantee that. The

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fact that Clinton has been losing popularity worries me because it makes him more susceptible to pressure.

Well, ladies and gentlemen, I must go.

[Correspondent] Thank you, Mr. President.

Castro Would Sacrifice 'Political Preferences' for Peace

MM1508090094 Madrid EL PAIS in Spanish 10 Aug 94 p 3

[Interview with President Fidel Castro by five unidentified Colombian journalists in Santa Fe de Bogota, Colombia, 8 August]

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota—"Those who have been able to do their duty need not fear death. When I die I will remain useful because I will serve as a banner." With these words, Cuban President Fidel Castro concluded his interview with five Colombian journalists on Monday evening. Castro went to Colombia in order to attend Ernesto Samper's inauguration as the country's new president.

[Question] Do you think about the tragic destiny of the solitude of power?

[Castro] That is a theory which refers to the power of an emperor, a Napoleon. I would say that to govern is to share viewpoints and to accept responsibilities when it falls to you.

[Question] Why do you not share power with your people through a plebiscite?

[Castro] To share it in the way that it is shared in the United States and in most of the world—we will not share it in that way. We have a plebiscite every day. How do you think the revolution could be defended without the people who form a structural part of the power? That is why I ask myself how many so-called representative democracies could achieve the feat which our people are achieving.

[Question] Do you believe that there are good things about capitalism?

[Castro] Capitalism brought some good things of a technical nature, but it also brought colonialism, extermination, and slavery.

[Question] What would you be prepared to concede in order to achieve a reconciliation with the United States?

[Castro] If it is a matter of principles, of the country's sovereignty, of the revolution's gains, we are prepared to concede nothing. We do not wish to become a Puerto Rico. We would be prepared to sacrifice our particular political preferences such as socialism for integration, peace, and social justice. I am speaking of the hope that I have that Latin America will act in this way some day. Cuba is making a heroic effort to survive. Those who wish to leave the country can do so, but the United States receives only those who hijack ships.

[Question] What is your reply to those who wish to oust you from Cuba?

[Castro] Those people must know that the work which I am doing is no pleasure but a duty. To leave the battlefield would be a betrayal. Revolutionaries do not retire as long as their services are required. I wish that I could devote myself to reading and writing.

Fidel Castro Rejects Killing 'Traitors'

FL1208191194 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Remarks by President Fidel Castro during an impromptu meeting with reporters "minutes after" 12 August television news conference in Havana; from the "National Radio News"—recorded]

[Text] This has strengthened the Revolution. It has not weakened it because when the people react in the manner they did the other day in confronting that violence or rioting, it is because the Revolution is grounded on principles, it has morals. We would rather be the ones enduring loss of lives. We prefer this in certain circumstances. However, if you are speaking about a foreign invasion, then it is a completely different matter. However, when we have to confront unarmed people, then we have to exercise great self-control and cannot abuse our power. I am convinced that such political practices....[pauses] However, I am aware that our people are radical, our people always want the so-called iron fist, and harder and harder iron fists because they hate them, they abhor them. Yet, if we acted on that hate and repulsion, we might be giving the enemy a very powerful tool to shape international opinion. They would use this to isolate us, portray us as repressive and murderers and all that.

A police battalion could have easily handled the incident of a few days ago. Can you imagine how advantageous it would have been for them if a police battalion would have dissolved the riot by firing a few shots and killing 10 or 12 people. However, when the people are the ones who respond, it is completely different. Has this ever happened anywhere else in the world? I have always believed in the importance of the masses being the ones confronting such challenges and that weapons be reserved for invaders and mercenaries. Now, if they are armed, it is a different thing.

I would say that this type of people are deserving of many sanctions. They are traitors, and our people always seek the harshest treatment for traitors and turncoats. In reality, a goverment's responsibilities does not allow it to order violent measures, repressive measures, even less-....[pauses] There are many people who wish we would kill those people, but we cannot do so. We cannot relinquish our standards, our principles and advocate violent repression. On the contrary, we try to avoid it,

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not only as a matter of principles but also because this is what they want. They want to drag us into violent repressions.

Funeral for 'Murdered' Officer Set for 14 Aug

PA1208163194 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 0618 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Text] Havana, 12 Aug (PL)—A farewell ceremony for Naval Lieutenant Roberto Aguilar Reyes, who was murdered on 4 August by a boat hijacker who fled to the United States, will be held on Sunday at the port of Mariel.

As announced by Cuban President Fidel Castro on television last night, it was in Mariel, 40 kilometers west of the capital, where the 38-year-old officer died. He was serving as construction and housing chief of Military Unit 4349.

Aguilar Reyes left behind a wife and three children, aged 3, 9, and 10. Awarded on two occasions with the Vanguard distinction, he was honored posthumously with the Antonio Maceo Order of Courage granted by the State Council.

Aguilar Reyes' courage was highlighted by the Cuban president, who recalled that given his specific work, the murdered officer was not commandeering that ship, although he tried to prevent the hijacking of the boat without success.

Aguilar's body was found after an all-out search by dozens of divers, who saw, at first glance, the two bullet wounds that killed him.

The boat was diverted from its course by force to the United States in an operation led by Leonel Macias, enlisted in the Navy, who killed the officer using a 38-caliber gun.

After the funeral in Mariel, scheduled for 0900 hours, Aguilar Reyes' body will be taken to his native Camaguey, an eastern province of the Island, where he will be honored by the masses on Sunday afternoon, 14 August, before being buried.

Navy Chief Terms Lieutenant's 'Murder' 'Vile Act'

FL1208160194 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1402 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Text] Rear Admiral Pedro Perez Betancourt, chief of the Cuban Revolutionary Navy, has described Navy Lieutenant Roberto Aguilar Reyes' actions as heroic, while refering to the events which took place on 8 August in Mariel Bay. Lt. Aguilar was murdered by a traitor during the hijacking. Bentacourt called the murder a vile act, condemned by all Cubans.

Antonio Alvarez, ideology instructor of the Special Forces unit, stressed the valuable qualities of Lt. Aguilar, who was a member of his unit, such as his straightforwardness, modesty, bravery, and comradeship.

Alvarez added that Lt. Aguilar came from a truly revolutionary family, and was a dedicated student of Marti's writings.

Article Outlines U.S.-Cuban Migration Conflict

PA1208170594 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 1127 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Article by Juan Antonio Blanco]

[Text] In light of the repeated incidents involving terrorists and hijackers of vessels with hostages—some of them children and elderly people—bound for Florida, an especially tense situation has been created in the past few days between Cuba and the United States. The reportage on these incidents by the large, global information networks corresponds to the usual patterns of fabrication of public consensus to legitimize current policies.

The question that emerges in the face of this manipulation of information regarding a crisis in Cuba is unequivocal: Do they want to provoke a crisis in Cuba?

In light of the usual repetitive mass of subliminal messages to which the crystal ball of the "informative" transnational companies and their "virtual reality" have subjected us, the alternative media are obligated to communicate facts objectively and to ask if a tragedy should be in the offing for the Cuban people. Let us review some of the basic precedents:

—The United States and Cuba signed an immigration agreement in December 1984 whereby Washington committed itself to accept up to 20,000 immigrants annually and to establish an additional priority quota to favor and to facilitate emigration by former political prisoners to that northern country.

—The United States never fulfilled that commitment. From 1984 to 1994, it has barely granted some 10,000 visas. In 1990, a committee of former political prisoners made up of over 70 individuals organized a hunger strike to protest the fact that the immigration agreement pertaining to them had not been fulfilled. It was learned through a document issued by these people that U.S. diplomatic authorities in Havana appealed to them to stay in Cuba to continue to struggle against communism. In other cases, when it involved individuals who had been penalized for trying to emigrate illegally to the United States, the very same authorities had responded negatively to their requests for visas, alleging that they could not be considered "political" prisoners but "common" prisoners if that had been the reason for their detention.

—Despite that discriminatory treatment against those people, the United States has a special immigration law (the so-called "Law of Cuban Adjustment") for those who arrive from the island. According to this law, people who make use of any aircraft or ocean-going vessel, with or without the use of violence, to emigrate from Cuba are automatically given the status

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of "political" refugee. In the brief span of one year they are given the often disputed "green card" for permanent legal residence. Hundreds of thousands of Mexicans, Central Americans, Caribbeans, and even Chinese [as received], who are fired upon in the Rio Grande, persecuted by immigration authorities, or intercepted by the Coast Guard, are denied such a unique privilege.

—The different treatment U.S. diplomatic officials in Havana accord to those intercepted by border guards while attempting to illegally leave Cuba and those who, managing to evade them, successfully arrive on U.S. coasts, along with the extraordinarily small number of immigration visas granted (an average of approximately 1000 yearly), leave no room for doubt that the United States wants—for reasons of propaganda against Cuba—to promote illegal departures within certain tolerable limits.

—The United States also has an existing agreement signed with Cuba against the hijacking of aircraft and oceangoing vessels, according to which the parties commit themselves, save for exceptional circumstances, to return the terrorists to the country of origin for trial. Never since that agreement was signed by President Carter has the United States returned a single terrorist to Cuba, despite the fact that a large number of vessels used to emigrate to the United States were hijacked for this purpose, often with hostages aboard. Not only were the provisions to deport terrorists and hijackers to Cuba not fulfilled, but those people were accorded the same privileged treatment stipulated by the "Law of Cuban Adjustment," while the official media and press gave those cases the public interpretation that they involved "political refugees."

—In 1992, a few months after the disappearance of the USSR—the island's primary commercial partner until that time (80 percent of the market)—the U.S. Congress further increased the so-called "embargo" against Cuba, extending it to third countries whose businessmen and ships are subject to reprisals by the Commerce and Treasury Departments if they make investments or engage in commercial or financial transactions with that country. The purpose of this new law was openly discussed and approved during the Congress deliberations: to make the life of the common Cuban citizen unbearable to produce a civil war against the regime. William Safire summed it up very well in THE NEW YORK TIMES: "To make the Cuban people hungry enough that they will be angry enough to want to rid themselves of Castro."

Between the time that the new law was approved (1992) and last year, illegal departures from the country increased to 2,554 and 3,656. In 1984, only 19 people emigrated illegally to the United States from Cuba.

In 1993 Cuba granted more than 80,000 permanent emigration permits to requesters, while the United States again granted few more than 1,000 migratory permits. The current problem would not change if Cuba decided tomorrow to suppress the official procedure required to leave the country.

Over the past months the United States has not only massively denied visas in Havana, given a green light to those who arrive illegally from Cuba, and praised the acts of terrorism and the kidnapping that took place, but it has also instructed the U.S. Coast Guard to get closer to Cuban waters to pick up even more people, thus further encouraging an increase in these type of actions.

Also, recent months have seen an intensification of activity at stations (there are 17 now) which broadcast special programs to Cuba from Florida (1,148 hours per week) during which those who arrived in the United States illegally recently voice their jubilation at having escaped to the land of "liberty" and "abundance."

In Cuba—as in other countries—illegal emigration to the United States has become a profitable business for criminals on both coasts. The planning of the hijacking of aircraft and vessels by criminals willing to use violence is complemented by offers to individuals who, without being criminals, have not been able to get a visa to emigrate in a secure, normal way to the United States. They usually offer to take these people out of Cuba illegally in exchange for several thousand dollars. In their desperation to leave, this type of offer has made more than a few gullible people the victims of swindlers and has turned others into accomplices of terrorist acts. Cases of U.S. criminals who systematically commit murder and transform their illegal human cargo into clandestine organ trafficking for medical institutions have also been detected.

As a result of this policy, there is an increasing number of people who die of dehydration, drowning, at the hand of criminals, or in the jaws of sharks in the Straits of Florida. The number of people who have met this fate is estimated to be in the thousands. There is also an increase in the number of terrorist acts and the hijacking of vessels to leave the country with hostages, with accomplices who pay to go as passengers, or with a combination of both. To date, no one has reported the sinking of any vessel by Cuban coast guards throughout the years that this policy has been in effect.

So much for the summary of the history that no multinational media has referred to or investigated in the exercise of free journalism.

The media is now reporting prominently—and distorting—isolated facts, such as:

—Noting the existence in Cuba of a legal process to obtain legal departure permits as the cause of the illegal departures.

—Suggesting that a wooden tugboat, which was built 115 years ago and whose operations had been limited for some time to within the Bay of Havana due to the

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danger posed by its use at sea, and which on top of this had been out of service because it was awaiting repairs for a leak, was supposedly sunk on the order of and by "government" vessels as it was trying to leave the country, resulting in the drowning of dozens of people.

—The kidnapping with grenades, pistols, and bayonets of three small vessels used to transport passengers within the Bay of Havana, using the passengers as hostages (including children and a two-month old baby). The kidnappers and their accomplices were picked up by a U.S. Coast Guard boat that refused to take with it the weapons that would have shown in court that a crime was committed.

—A disturbance that involved hundreds of people—there were never 1,000 of them, according to accounts by pedestrians, tourists, and foreign reporters who witnessed the actions—who shattered store windows, beat up policemen and citizens, and damaged some vehicles.

This disturbance began on the very day of another attempt to hijack a passenger vessel during which one of the terrorists murdered at point-blank range a 19-year-old black policeman who was traveling as a passenger. The spontaneous reaction of the population, which is angry over these crimes, to confront and help capture the nearly 300 people involved in these actions has also been presented "in news reports" to the world as a "brutal repression." This gross manipulation of the news, in addition to the "media neglect" of the context and background that we mentioned, deserves clarification.

1. The Cuban exit permit is a legal procedure that has diminished in number and in practice from 1988 until now and is only a formality. The U.S. Government has not fully prohibited its citizens from traveling to Cuba, but they must justify their desire to visit the island under certain exceptional rules in order to obtain their government's "permission" to protect themselves against jail sentences or fines in excess of $100,000 upon their return.

2. The tugboat was not chased by the Cuban military or people under government orders. It was pursued by a fistful of port workers in another three tugboats who wished to prevent the theft of the craft owned by their enterprise.

The port workers, who were arrested and questioned together with the hijackers and survivors of the sinking boat, made statements, which were corroborated by the hijackers and survivors, to the effect that while trying to prevent the hijacking at midnight and in waves 3 meters high, the craft sank as a result of a fatal accidental between the craft and one of the civilian craft piloted by port workers. This craft was without communications. The port workers were trying to stop the craft on their own account. Later, more than one hour and a half after the incident began, a Cuban coast guard vessel arrived at the scene of the sinking boat to help rescue survivors, an effort which the port workers had already undertaken using the other boats.

3. To present as heroes the terrorists and hijackers of a boat transporting women, old people, and children and who, to make matters worse, had killed a policeman who was riding as a passenger, is contrary to the duties of a country that has signed agreements against piracy and terrorism.

4. The international press, which has systematically preferred to ignore the impact of the U.S. economic blockade on the Cuban population, now prefers to highlight the fact that several hundred people caused disturbances "against the regime" in Havana and to withhold the fact that there has not been a single person with bullet wounds, despite the fact that 10 policemen were among the 35 people injured, to a greater or lesser degree. No one was killed. The Cuban Government gave strict orders to the authorities not to use firearms. The armored vehicles that traveled the Los Angeles streets where nowhere to be seen in Havana. No tear gas was used, either.

Nevertheless, the tragic tugboat sinking had already served the U.S. Senate to request that President Clinton take the case before the UN Security Council.

The Cuban Government has stated that if the U.S. Government is unwilling to control illegal immigration from Cuba to their coasts, then the Cuban authorities will not stop the departure of boats that have not been stolen or hijacked in acts of terrorism or the arrival of those boats that come to look for relatives. In sum: If the United States believes that any Cuban citizen who arrives on U.S. coasts illegally deserves a green card and that it is the Cuban Government that in a totalitarian way hinders the free movement of its citizens, the time has come for the world to verify the real cause of the migratory drama between the two countries. The U.S. Government's reply has been swift: If the Cuban Government authorizes not the free exit, which it already does, but the right to embark aboard private craft to the United States, the U.S. Government would respond with a Pentagon contingency plan: Operation Distant Shore. [preceeding three words in English]

The formula being applied to Cuba is one of complete subversion; economic strangulation plus visa denial plus radio psychological warfare equals social explosion. The idea was to induce a Tiananmen Square and, if possible, a civil war. But there were no tanks, soldiers, rifles, or steel or rubber bullets. There was a clash between some of the population with a few hundred people. Not enough to encourage aggression.

If President Clinton wants to be reelected in 1996—it is said that he has not changed his policy toward Cuba so as to not alienate the Florida Cuban vote he did not receive in 1992—he better consider the repercussions that a crisis with Cuba could bring him if he allows himself to

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be led by those who believe that the U.S. State Department should act as the Dade County State Department. He would probably not only fail to win those votes but lose many of those he did get in 1992.

If sending troops to Somalia was not a good idea, they should think what it would mean to provoke and become directly involved in a crisis with Cuba.

The policy on Cuba that President Clinton inherited was designed by conservative Republicans trying to generate in Cuba an incident that could be used as a legitimate excuse for a direct aggression against Cuba. Those sectors maintain a permanent presence in the federal bureaucracy and now would like to produce not only the crisis they have bet on but also to make the Democratic Party bear the cost of the outcome. The extreme right sectors of the Cuban-American community, wishing for a revenge for which U.S. soldiers would have to pay now, have lent themselves to this irresponsible and criminal game.

If the president does not want a crisis with Cuba it must abandon the idea that the authorities of this country will pay the price of avoiding it. The Cuban Government does not want to continue facing the risk of an incident resulting from the controls which, without any U.S. support, it exerts on illegal emigrants to that country.

The economic blockade, noncompliance with immigration and antiterrorism agreements, and the psychological warfare indicate one type or another of conflict with Cuba which, once initiated, will acquire its own expression based on each one's values and commitments. If the democratic administration feels so vulnerable now before the rightist sector of the Cuban-American community, to the point that it does not dare change its policy toward the island before the elections, what could we expected if there is the kind of incident that those sectors could use as basis for demanding a direct U.S. action against Cuba? Curiously enough, the White House apparently is convinced of the Cuban Government's ability to maintain the island's stability in spite of U.S. policy.

A few hundred people participated in the 5 August demonstrations, but the Miami media inflated the figures and is talking about 40,000 demonstrators. CNN, lacking its own film, did not hesitate to use a video showing the people who took to the streets to greet Fidel Castro at the scene, as if they were the people who started the demonstrations. If someone had died, and nobody died, how many would the media have reported, and what action would it have demanded of the president?

How far would Clinton have let himself be pushed by this pressure? Producing the much-wanted social explosion in Cuba would be a victory, or could it be the beginning of a nightmare for the U.S. Government? The current U.S. policy on Cuba, inherited from previous administrations, is in conflict with the interests of the Democratic Party and with those of the United States, which would have to pay a considerable price just because a handful of rich Cubans in Miami want to return someday amid foreign bayonets to misgovern the country.

A tense waiting period has begun. Perhaps common sense will prevail and Washington will realize the need to thoroughly reconsider its policy toward Cuba before President Clinton loses not only the votes from Dade County but the votes from the entire United States.

Cuba is a small but sovereign country. With the Soviet Union gone, few would doubt this fact. Only negotiations, common sense, and mutual respect can keep the burden of the past from leading to a conflict no one on the island wants and that the White House should also avoid.

U.S. Lawmaker Interviewed on 'Current Crisis'

PA1308002194 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 1957 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Report by Tomas A. Granados]

[Text] Havana, 12 Aug (PL)—Amid a new chapter of irritation in the political dispute between Cuba and the United States, U.S. Congressman Jose Serrano has just presented a proposal to ease the blockade against the island and to promote a dialogue "before the current crisis worsens."

"I once again ask, today more than ever, that the blockade be ended, conversations with the Cuban Government begin, and steps be taken to spare both countries of a confrontation that may be very sad," Serrano said today in a telephone conversation with PRENSA LATINA from Washington.

The U.S. congressman of Puerto Rican origin yesterday presented on Capitol Hill a draft bill intended to negate the so-called Cuba Democracy Act, sponsored by Democratic Representative Robert Torricelli of New Jersey.

"This punitive policy is equal to a military invasion. We are injuring needy people in such way that it appears we are injuring them with bullets," Serrano expressed.

The initiative of the current leader of the Hispanic group in the U.S. Congress to revoke the aforementioned legislation, which stiffens the more than 30-year-old economic blockade against Cuba, comes at a time when Washington and Havana are on the verge of a serious confrontation regarding immigration.

Last week, armed individuals hijacked four government boats and headed for the United States, taking the lives of two people in these violent actions. President Fidel Castro yesterday denounced the economic blockade as Washington's main weapon to promote illegal emigration.

For the Democratic Party representative for the Bronx in the city of New York, it is "inhuman and immoral to

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starve an entire people to death, or to punish them with an economic blockade designed to subject them to our political will."

In this regard, the U.S. lawmaker said some people in Florida are now concerned over the possibility of an uncontrolled mass exodus of illegal Cuban immigrants, which, according to him, is 'extremely ironic."

"Elected officials in my country kept quiet when Florida radio stations urged Cubans to behave in a certain way, and now that many seem to be heeding the call, these very officials are concerned that this may prompt a mass illegal emigration of Cubans," Serrano added.

"I know there are people who want to enter the United States legally and later return to Cuba. However, this is not in the best interest of many people who want Cubans to come here and say they do not want to go back to their fatherland ever again, or that they hate everything they left behind," Serrano denounced.

"I hope to see the day when the Cuban who wants to come to the United States can do so without having to declare a new alliance with this country," Serrano continued.

Serrano's iniative to annul the so-called Torricelli Law coincides with similar views issued in recent days by the influential dailies THE WASHINGTON POST and THE NEW YORK TIMES, which recommended President Clinton ease the blockade against Cuba to avoid a confrontation on immigration.

Serrano contended: "This is no time to put the blame on one side or the other, but to begin a dialogue to end the blockade and begin talks with the Cuban Government so that both nations can be spared a confrontation that may be very sad."

He concluded: "We must try to achieve a resolution to this crisis before it worsens. This must be done in an orderly manner, with love and respect, and in a peaceful manner through a productive and healthy dialogue with the Cuban Government."

TV Notes U.S. President 'Forced' To Review Policy

FL1508011994 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Aug 94

[From the "NTV" newscast]

[Text] U.S. President William Clinton is now forced to review his policy on Cuba, in light of the political and economic impact of a virtual mass Cuban exodus. Former U.S. Government officials, political analysts, economists, and some congressmen have told the President that keeping Cuba isolated from economic development through the blockade is totally wrong. The analysts agreed that the illegal immigration of Cubans is no longer being accepted by the U.S. and Cuban communities and that the blockade, undoubtedly, motivates an increase in the number of refugees. A U.S. Coast Guard officer told the media that they favored an immigration law that would authorize the deportation of any immigrant who arrives illegally to the United States and added that the exit of the Cubans from the island was motivated mainly by economic reasons and not political persecution.

Dominican Republic

Congress Postpones Debate on New Elections

PA1408004794 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2345 GMT 13 Aug 94

[Text] Santo Domingo, 13 Aug (NOTIMEX)—The Dominican Congress eliminated consecutive presidential reelection today and postponed for tomorrow its debate on when new elections are to be held.

The debate has been extended, because the Social Christian Reformist Party (PRSC) is attempting to pass an amendment to the Pact for Democracy signed by President Joaquin Balaguer with the opposition on 11 August.

PRSC legislators, headed by Congressman Juan Olibero Feliz, proposed the new elections be held in two years, a motion which the Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD) described as "a coup d'etat for the Pact for Democracy."

Congress, with the approval of the PRSC and the Dominican Liberation Party (PLD,) confirmed on 11 August the Electoral Tribunal ruling that made Balaguer the winner of the 16 May presidential elections by 22,282 votes over Juan Pena Gomez of the PRD.

Balaguer made a commitment that same day with the PRD and the PLD to call new elections for 16 November 1995, not to present his candidacy to a fourth consecutive term, and to ensure he will relinquish the Presidency to the winner in February 1996.

The PRSC legislators did not back the document, however, and have stated "the signed pact is an iniquity, a political scheme we will regret sooner or later."

Another issue that has to be discussed is the conformation of the Electoral Tribunal.

On another issue, Congress banned consecutive presidential reelections by reforming Article 47, accepted double nationality for Dominicans, and created the National Magistrature Council [Consejo Nacional de la Magistratura].

The ban on reelection has been known since Balaguer signed the agreement with the opposition.

The other constitutional amendment establishes that any Dominican citizen living abroad can adopt another citizenship without losing his original one.

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In relation to the creation of the National Magistrature Council, Congress will grant authority to this organization to choose the judges to the lower courts, peace courts, and other judicial courts.

Congress Fixes New Election Date, Balaguer's Term

PA1408191394 Paris AFP in Spanish 1507 GMT 14 Aug 94

[Report by Jesus Perez-Pena]

[Text] Santo Domingo, 14 Aug (AFP)—Parliamentary sources announced this Sunday that the Dominican Republic will hold new presidential elections on 16 August 1996, after congressmen of the ruling Social Christian Reformist Party (PRSC) agreed to reduce Balaguer's mandate to two years, instead of the 18 months requested by the opposition.

Sources close to Congress announced on Sunday that the new election date had been determined with the votes of 25 PRSC senators and the 78 Dominican Liberation Party (PLD) deputies who have been supporting the ruling party during the last weeks.

Congressmen representing the Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD), led by Jose Francisco Pena Gomez, who exposed the fraud in the recent 16 May elections, decided to withdraw and not participate in the voting session that took place during the early hours of Saturday morning.

Presidential terms in the Dominican Republic are for a four-year period. However, following numerous accusations of fraud during the past elections, which were corroborated by foreign observers, the ruling party and the opposition agreed to cut Balaguer's new term, which was scheduled to begin on 16 August.

The congressional session also agreed on the judicial branch's autonomy and agreed that the Central Electoral Board (JCE) would be henceforth selected by the Senate.

Since this past Friday, Congress has been debating constitutional reforms and a summons to a Constituent Assembly, both of which are included in the "Agreement for Democracy," signed this week by Balaguer himself, the PRD and the PLD.

This "Agreement for Democracy" was signed following pressures from Pena Gomez, prompted by his fraud accusations, and was supported by the Catholic Church, as well as the Organization of American States (OAS). Both organizations seek to cooperate in solving the post-electoral crisis.

The JCE has been one of the most criticized institutions in this post-electoral crisis, because of the delays in disclosing the elections results and the irregularities it may have carried out during the election process.

Moreover, the PRD also finds fault with the manner in which the JCE operates, its decisions, which are unappealable even by the Supreme Court of Justice, and its authority to decide over any challenges against its own magistrates.

Political forces represented at the new Senate, scheduled to begin on 16 August and responsible for selecting the new JCE, are comprised of 15 PRSC legislators, 14 from the PRD, and one PLD, following the last-minute decision of a senator aligned with Pena Gomez to support the ruling party.

Meanwhile, today Sunday, the PRD is still holding political meetings, and its members have not yet made any official statements with respect to the congressional decisions.

The points originally included in the "Agreement for Democracy" were new presidential and vice-presidential elections on 16 November 1995 and an inauguration on 27 February 1996.

The agreement also established that all senators, mayors, and council members elected during the recent 16 May elections would carry out their four-year term, a prohibition to presidential re- election, the establishment of a new electoral board, and judicial branch independence. These issues have already been approved.

During the past elections, Balaguer defeated Pena Gomez by merely 22,000 votes (less than 1 percent), according to results disclosed by the JCE, which took more than two months to make the election results official.

Haitians Said Still Crossing Border To Buy Merchandise

PA1308010794 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2157 GMT 12 Aug 94

[By Lourdes Pallais]

[Text] Dajabon, Dominican Republic, 12 Aug (NOTIMEX)—Carrying ice and bags of groceries on their heads, thousands of Haitians cross this border post with supplies they obtain for themselves or to sell, despite the embargo against their country, NOTIMEX confirmed today.

"Two things have been discovered despite the blockade: the importance of Dominican-Haitian trade and the weakening of Dominican institutions," Dominican Jesuit Priest Regino Martinez Breton said.

Martinez Breton, who has worked in the region for 20 years, added commercial speculation is "inevitable," because "it is the only way those Haitians can earn a living, and it also benefits the people of Dajabon."

"Haitians have been allowed to cross the border for the past month, although Dominican soldiers sometimes

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charge them for allowing them to cross and then take away the merchandise they buy," Martinez Brenton said.

Approximately 2,000 to 3,000 Haitians cross this border post of 20,000 inhabitants, located 350 km north of Santo Domingo, to buy groceries, two times a week from 1100 to 1300 local time.

Despite the U.S. embargo and the recent closing of the Haitian-Dominican border, UN Resolution 917 permits humanitarian aid for the Haitian people.

Residents of Juana Mendez—the central park is only 2 km from Dajabon—have been crossing the bridge since 21 May to buy food in the market for two hours.

"It is part of the permitted humanitarian aid. They would try to smuggle fuel on occasions, but they are docile when caught. They drop the fuel and return to their country," a military source has said.

"They are very clever. They bring their bags, buy rice, beans, plantains, water, ice, powdered milk, and soap, and take everything with them, not only to cover their needs but also to do business," the source added.

"They would buy and sell their soul; what they want is money," said a Dominican soldier who asked not to be identified and who said he has been in charge of the border post for six months.

Today, while Haitian women did their laundry and children drank water from small wells on the banks of the Masacre River, which runs along the nearly 400-km border, Haitian "poteas" (loaders) carried bundles toward Juana Mendez.

According to a Dominican merchant, the price for a pound of chicken is 7 pesos (50 cents of a dollar), but a Haitian who crossed the border today said he was charged 20 pesos (almost 2 dollars).

"There is speculation, of course. It is inevitable, and soldiers cannot handle the situation without repression," Martinez Breton said.

"Gas stations have been on strike in the entire region for more than four days. Contraband is controlled arbitrarily. There is no civilian authority. Dominican institutions are weak," Martinez Breton added.

Meanwhile, the military source denied there is tension in the area but admitted there is disorder.

"We have not had any serious confrontations. As you know, however, when a soldier faces a Haitian trying to cross the border, it is a very explosive situation," the soldier said.

Martinez Breton said clashes have increased since March and have resulted in 25 Haitians and 25 Dominicans killed.

According to priest Martinez Breton, an intervention by a UN multilateral force as ratified by the UN Security Council would be "the only way not to prolong this unbearable situation."

Both the soldier and the priest said contraband continues but, rather, in less quantities than before the border was closed even though the blockade bans the sale of fuel.

"Haitians are resisting the measures this time. They are being strangled. You can tell Haitian blacks from the Dominicans due to the shabby clothes they wear," the soldier said.

Haiti

Soldiers, Volunteers Stage March Over Invasion Threat

PA1308130694 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0544 GMT 13 Aug 94

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 12 Aug (NOTIMEX)— Some 75 Haitian soldiers today headed a contingent of 5,000 volunteers for the country's defense in a march staged in view of the threat of an international military intervention.

The march was staged in front of the general Army headquarters in the Haitian capital in the absence of Armed Forces Commander General Raoul Cedras, who headed the September 1991 coup d'etat against President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

"The resistance has begun," a sign placed near the military garrison read. The march also passed by the National Palace, the seat of the government.

The march was headed by approximately 75 soldiers carrying automatic rifles. Some of them rode in all-terrain vehicles, followed by approximately 5,000 volunteers.

The march expressed the decision of the military coupists and their supporters to face a possible multinational invasion authorized by the United Nations on 31 July to force the reinstatement of Aristide.

The United Nations authorized the creation of a multinational force to achieve the return of democracy in Haiti in the face of the ineffectiveness of the economic blockade against the Caribbean nation imposed in May.

According to political sources, the de facto government declared Friday a holiday to begin three days of prayer for Haiti.

Latin American diplomats mentioned the possibility of holding a meeting between the foreign ministers of the region and the coupist officers on Wednesday in an attempt to find a peaceful solution to the Haitian conflict.

Recent Venezuelan diplomatic efforts to find a political solution to the crisis were rejected by the United States

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based on the Haitian military officers' violation of the Governors Island Agreement that was to allow Aristide's return.

The United Nations announced yesterday that it will promote a new diplomatic mission by former Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo, who is in charge of the international mediation effort in Haiti.

De Facto Government Imposes Press Restrictions

PA1308233194 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2042 GMT 13 Aug 94

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 13 Aug (DPA)—The de facto government of President Emile Jonassaint imposed new restrictions on freedom of the press in Haiti today.

In a communique published today, the Information Ministry prohibited local media from "broadcasting or highlighting, without expressed authorization, information or statements coming from foreign embassies."

On another issue, the promilitary organization "Freedom or Death" has threatened ASSOCIATED PRESS correspondent Michael Norton with "throwing him out of our country, which is still too tolerant," for having written the civilians engaged in military exercises in preparation for a possible military intervention are "neo-Duvalierists."

Two Local Employees of U.S. Network Released

PA1208171694 Paris AFP in Spanish 1339 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 12 Aug (AFP)—Two Haitians, an interpreter and a chauffeur, who were employed by a U.S. television network team expelled by Port-au-Prince authorities, were released on Thursday on court orders, after spending 10 days in prison.

The two told AFP they were treated well during their detention. Calixte Delatour, an attorney of the Port-au-Prince bar association, is handling their case.

The two Haitians work for a U.S. PBS [Public Broadcasting Service] television network team made up of three persons. The team was expelled from the country on 4 August by the provisional de facto government for filming the Port-au-Prince international airport landing strip.

The landing strip is one of the "strategic zones" established by authorities to forestall a possible armed invasion from abroad.

Jamaica

Hijacked Cuban Fishing Boat Arrives

PA1508023994 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0136 GMT 15 Aug 94

[Text] Kingston, 14 Aug (EFE)—A small Cuban fishing boat hijacked by individuals armed with a pistol and two knives arrived in Jamaica on Sunday with 23 people on board, after diverting from its original route to Florida (the United States), the police have reported.

The boat reached land near Montego Bay, in northern Jamaica, and 19 of its occupants immediately voiced their intention to request political asylum at the U.S. Embassy.

The other four people, who are members of the crew, said they wanted to return to Cuba, because they made the journey against their will.

The police sources said the fishermen were approached, according to the accounts of the Cubans, when they were preparing for work.

The boat changed its initial route to the United States for as of yet undetermined reasons. Nine other Cubans were rescued near the Jamaican coast after their small boat capsized on 12 July. The nine Cubans requested political asylum in Jamaica on that occasion, and they are in Kingston under investigation by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

The fishing boat that arrived in Jamaica on Sunday is the sixth hijacked since early June by people fleeing the Communist regime of Fidel Castro.

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Subcommander Marcos Speaks at Convention

PA1308184194 Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 10 Aug 94 pp 20-22

["Full text" of speech by Subcommander Marcos of the EZLN before the National Democratic Convention, CND, in the mountains of southeastern Mexico in August; specific date not given]

[Text] Honorable Democratic Convention; Presidency of the Democratic Convention; Delegates; Guests; Observers; and Brothers:

My voice brings the message of the EZLN [Zapatist National Liberation Front], Aguascalientes, Chiapas, a garrison, a bunker, a weapons factory, a military training center, and an explosives depot. Aguascalientes, Chiapas, Noah's Ark, Tower of Babel, a jungle vessel in Fiscarraldo, the delirium of neo-Zapatism, and a pirate ship. [sentence as published]

The anachronistic paradox, the tender madness of faceless people, the nonsense of a civilian movement holding a dialogue with an armed movement. [sentence as published]

Aguascalientes, Chiapas, the hope represented by the graded steps, by the small palm trees by the stairs which facilitate reaching heaven, by the sea shells whose call can be heard in the open space of the jungle, by those who did not come but are here, and by the flowers that die in other lands but which will live here. [sentence as published]

Aguascalientes, Chiapas is for the EZLN 29 days of work, 14 hours per day, 600 men-women per hour, 235,200 man-hours of work, 9,800 days of work, 28 years of work, 60 million in old pesos, a library, a presidium that looks like a trans-Atlantic bridge, plain benches for 8,000 conventioneers, 20 boarding houses, 14 bonfires, 100 parking spaces, and a tent area.

Aguascalientes, Chiapas, a common effort of civilians and the military, a common effort to achieve a change, a peaceful effort of the armed ones, and before Aguascalientes, they said that it was crazy, that nobody could summon, within the limits imposed by the use of rifles and sky caps, an electoral meeting prior to the elections. [sentence as published] And before Aguascalientes they said that no prudent person would heed the call of a rebel group that is outlawed and about which little is known, a group that represents the light that illuminated January, that no one would heed its obsessive attempt to bring back old and hackneyed words: democracy, liberty, and justice.

Covered faces, night patrols, the mountain that has become a symbol of hope, the eyes of the Indians who for centuries have followed our hasty quest to achieve modernization, our stubborn decision to reject alms in pursuit of an apparent absurd: everything for everyone, nothing for us.

Before Aguascalientes, they said that there was too little time, that no one would be involved in a project that, as the Tower of Babel, was proclaiming its failure since the very moment it was summoned.

Before Aguascalientes, they said that fear, the sweet terror that nourishes the good people of this country from birth, would prevail in the end, that the comfort of doing nothing, of sitting down to wait and observe, to applaud or jeer at the protagonists of this bitter comedy that they call homeland, would reign along with other things in the name of the people of Mexico, the civilian society.

Before Aguascalientes, they said that the irreconcilable differences that divide and pit us against each other would prevent us from uniting, that the omnipotent party of the state and other things that thrive around it: presidentialism, the sacrifice of liberty and democracy for the sake of stability and economic bonanza, fraud and corruption as a national trait, justice prostituted by alms, desperation, and conformity elevated to national security doctrine. [sentence as published]

Before Aguascalientes, they said there would be no problems. They said that to summon a dialogue among the shapeless, disorganized, and fragmented masses, down to the family microcosm, the so-called civilian society, would have neither an echo nor a common cause; that the meeting of disunified groups will only result in division that will wind up in a standstill.

Before Aguascalientes, they said there was no reason to oppose the CND, that it would terminate itself, that it was not worth obstructing openly, and that it was better that it be crushed from the inside. Then Mexico and the world would see that the nonconformists are incapable of reaching an agreement among themselves and would therefore be incapable of offering the nation a national project better than that which the institutionalized and established revolution gives all of us Mexicans, together with the pride of having 24 forefathers of the international money nation.

That is what they bet on and it is why they allowed the convention. That is why they did not prevent you from coming here. The foreseeable failure of the CND should not be attributed to the powerful; it should be evident that the weak are weak because they are obviously incapable of being otherwise; they are weak because they deserve it; they are weak because they desire it.

Before Aguascalientes, we did say yes, that this was a madness, that from the horizons that open the way for rifles and balaclavas a national meeting could be summoned on the fronts steps of the elections and be a success. Do you want a mirror?

To complain, he sits in the aching frames of history that prudence allows nowadays; the repeated rattling of doing nothing, waiting, exasperated; the foolish and tender

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rage of the everything for all, nothing is for us. It would fall on the ears of the others; others who are unfaithfully traded between you and us.

Before Aguascalientes, we said time was more than enough, that what there was not enough of was shame of the fear of proving we were better, that the problem of the Tower of Babel did not lie in the project itself but in the lack of a good liaison system and a translating team.

The failure was in the failure to try; in the sitting down to observe how the tower was being erected, how it was stopped, and how it crumbled; and in the sitting down to observe how history would take care of not the tower but of those who sat down to wait for its failure.

Before Aguascalientes, we said that fear, the seductive terror emanating from the sewers of power which have fed us since birth, can and must be laid aside, not forgotten or ignored, just laid aside. We want the fear of remaining spectators to be greater than the fear of searching for common ground, for something that would unite us, and for something that could transform this comedy into history.

Before Aguascalientes, we said that the differences that divide us and make us face one another would not prevent us from finding common grounds: the system of obvious things that weaken us, of evidence that burdens us, and of common ground that murders us; the system of a state party and the absurdities that gain legality and institutionality. The hereditary dictatorship, the sending of democracy, freedom, and justice to a ridiculous, utopian place. [sentence as published] The electoral joke raised to the level of computer alchemy and a national monument; poverty and ignorance as the destitute's historical vocation; and democracy cleansed with imported soap and water from antiriot tanks. [sentence as published]

Before Aguascalientes, we said there were no problems; that the call to hold talks between armed and faceless and unarmed and faceless civilians would find common ground; and that by the divisions coming together and by holding constructive talks, we could elicit a movement that would at last turn this shameful page of Mexican history.

Before Aguascalientes, we said no one should oppose the CND, which would be precisely that: no more, no less than a celebration, the celebration of broken fear, the first hesitant step toward the possibility of offering the nation the opportunity to say that's enough. Indians and peasants will not be the only ones saying that is enough. Those words can add up, multiply, reproduce, and triumph. It can be the celebration of a discovery: realizing that we are not doomed to fail and that victory is possible.

That is our bet. That is why the anonymous and collective efforts identified only by a five-pointed red star—a symbol of mankind and struggle—and a four-letter name—the symbol of rebellion—began here. This place has been forgotten by government studies and international treaties, and it is not included on maps and routes representing money. We have built this place we call Aguascalientes in memory of previous attempts to unite our hopes.

That is why thousands of men and women with hooded faces, mostly Indians, erected this tower, the tower of hope. That is why we set aside, for awhile, our rifles, our anger, our grief for our dead, our fighting spirit, our militancy. That is why we built this meeting place which, if successful, will be the first step to see ourselves as an alternative. That is why we built Aguascalientes as a meeting site. If this meeting fails, we will be forced again to defend with fire our right to have a place in history.

That is why we invited you. That is why we are pleased to see you here. We hope that your maturity and wisdom will help you recognize that the main, most powerful, and most terrible enemy is not seated here among you.

That is why we address this CND with great respect to ask you on behalf of all men and women, children and elderly people, all EZLN members dead and alive, not to listen to those who predict the failure of this convention. We ask you to seek and discover the things that unite us, to speak the truth, not to forget the differences that separate you and often lead to clashes among you. Set those differences aside for a moment, for a few days, hours, or minutes necessary to discover the common enemy. We respectfully ask you not to betray your ideals, principles, and history. Do not betray or diminish yourselves. We respectfully ask you to defend your ideals, principles, and history, to be firm and consistent in saying that's enough to the lie governing our history today.

The EZLN participates in this CND with 20 delegates, each one with a vote. We want to make two things clear: One, our commitment to the CND; the other, our determination not to impose our viewpoints. We have also rejected any possibility of participating in the CND presidency. This convention peacefully seeks change; it should not be headed by armed people. We want to have a place among you, to be one of you, to express our views.

We want to state, just in case anyone doubts it, that we do not regret taking up arms against the supreme government. We reiterate that we had no other alternative. We are not ashamed of our armed actions, our hooded faces, our dead. We are proud of them, and we are willing to shed more blood and sacrifice more dead if that is the price of achieving a democratic change in Mexico.

We want to say that we are not bothered by accusations of being the priests of martyrology, being belligerent, about not being attracted by the songs of sirens and angels who give us access to a world that looks down on us with contempt and mistrust, a world that belittles the value of our blood and offers fame in exchange for dignity. We do not seek to live as others live now. Much has been asked, with the probing perversity of someone

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seeking to confirm suppositions, about the expectations of EZLN members regarding this CND. Some believe we seek a civilian pact. To make the eight columns of the local and international papers, others argue; a new justification for their belligerent efforts, some people claim; a civilian endorsement of the war, others venture; the revival platform for those forgotten by the system, some fear within an official party while they put a price on the official party; an opportunity to have the leadership of an apparently dead left, opposition members whisper; an endorsement for a submission, some point out from the conspiracy from beyond the grave that could eventually fire the shot that will quiet us; the platform for Marcos to negotiate a post in the coming modern administration, a bright column by some bright analyst—of dark political intrigues, that's for sure—argues.

Today, in light of this CND, the EZLN answers the question: What do the EZLN members expect from the CND? Not a civilian arm that extends the sinister are of war to all corners of the motherland; not the journalistic publicity that reduces the fight for dignity to a sporadic front-page article; not more arguments to decorate our clothes of fire and death; not a step for the calculations of politicians, powerful groups, and subgroups; not the doubtful honor of being the historic vanguard of the many vanguards we endure; not an excuse to betray the ideals and deaths we carry with pride as our legacy; not a springboard to win a desk in an office in the government of a country.

Not the appointment of a provisional government, not the drafting of a new Constitution, not the conformation of a new constituent assembly, not the endorsement of a presidential candidate in this country of pain and conformity, not the war.

We seek the beginning of a bigger achievement than the one in Aguascalientes, the creation of a peace with dignity. We seek the beginning of an effort greater than the one that resulted in Aguascalientes—the effort for a democratic change that includes freedom and justice for the forgotten majority.

We seek the beginning of the end of a long nightmare of what is absurdly called the history of Mexico. We seek the moment to tell everyone that we cannot nor do we want to occupy the place many expect us to occupy, a place where all opinions, all routes, all answers, all truths originate; we will not do that. We anticipate the CND will provide us with the opportunity to pursue and find someone to whom we can pass on this flag which we uncovered forsaken and discarded in the centers of power. This is a flag we were able to seize with our own blood from the dreadful prisons of the museums, a flag which we guarded day and night. This a flag that coexisted with us during the war, and one which we would like to have during peace. This is a flag which today we pass on to the CND, not so it can hold onto it and withhold it from the rest of the nation. Neither is it a flag to be used to usurp the leading role in any possible armed conflict, specific civilian conflicts, or to claim any representativeness or any kind of ism [somesialismos].

Yes, this flag for all Mexicans to fight to be able to make it theirs once again, and for it to be once again the NATIONAL FLAG; your flag, companeros. [sentence as published]

We count on the CND, this peaceful and legal organization in the struggle for democracy, liberty, and justice. A struggle during which we were forced to travel armed and with our identities concealed.

We expect to hear the truth from the CND, words of peace but not words of abdication in the struggle for liberty. We expect to hear words of peace but not passive complicity with injustice.

From this CND we expect a capacity to understand that the right to claim representativeness of a nation's feelings is not simply a resolution approved by vote or consensus. It is something that still has to be won in the neighborhoods, ejidos, communities, Indian communities, schools, universities, factories, enterprises, research centers, cultural and artistic centers, in every corner of this country

From this CND we expect to have the clarity to realize that this is only one step, the first of many that must be taken, even in conditions more adverse than the present ones.

From this CND we expect the courage to harbor the hope that many Mexicans have, including us, to prove that the best men and women of this country are willing to use their means and strength for the transformation, which is the only possibility for survival our people have. It is the transformation to democracy, freedom, and justice.

From this CND we expect the maturity not to turn this opportunity into an internal settling of accounts that is useless and emasculating.

Finally, from this CND we expect a collective call to fight for that which belongs to us; for that which is the reason and right of good people; only for that which is our place in history. It is not our time. It is not the time for weapons. We step aside but we do not leave. We will wait until the horizon opens or until we are no longer necessary, until we are no longer possible, we, who are forever dead; we, who have to die in order to live again. From this CND we expect an opportunity, the opportunity that those who rule the country denied to us; the opportunity of returning with dignity after fulfilling our duty, after being under the soil.

It is the opportunity to return to the silence we kept to ourselves. It is the opportunity to return to the night from which we came. It is the opportunity to return to the death we experienced. It is the opportunity to disappear in the same way we appeared, at dawn, without a

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face, without a future. It is the opportunity to return to the bottom of history, to a dream, to the mountain.

It has been erroneously said that the Zapatistas have given a deadline for resuming the war. It has been said that if things do not work out the way they want them to by 21 August, war will begin again. They lie to the Mexican people. No one, no one, not even the EZLN can impose deadlines or give ultimatums.

To the EZLN, there are no deadlines other than those determined by civic and peaceful mobilizations. We are subordinate to them, in fact, we would even cease to be an alternative.

We will not resume the war. The Zapatistas have no ultimatums for civilian society. We will wait, we will resist, we are expert at that.

Fight. Fight, tirelessly. Fight and defeat the government. Fight and defeat the government. Fight and defeat us. Defeat will never be so sweet, as if the peaceful transfer to democracy, dignity, and justice would wind up being the winner.

The Clandestine Indian Revolutionary Committee-EZLN General Command [CCRI-CG] delivered Aguascalientes to you so you can meet there and agree to say no to immobility; no to the sterile skepticism; no to the exchange of reproach and praises; no to using the podium for personal gain; no to bellicose tourism; no to the blackmail of unconditional surrender; no to war; and no to peace at any price.

We say yes to discussions to agree on the civic, peaceful, popular, and national struggle for democracy, freedom, and justice. The EZLN's CCRI-CG delivers to you know the national flag to remind you that it means fatherland, history, and nation and to commit you to what democracy, freedom, and justice should mean.

Greetings, brother members of this convention. Aguascalientes rebelled for you. This space for peace with justice and dignity was built for you in the midst of this territory in arms.

Thank you.

Democracy, freedom, justice.

From the mountains of Southeast Mexico.

Clandestine Indian Revolutionary Committee-EZLN General Command

Mexico, August 1994

Workers Confederation Endorses PRI's Zedillo

PA1408023694 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 10 Aug 94 p 11

["Manifesto" of the National Committee of the Confederation of Mexican Workers issued in Mexico City on 10 August]

[Text] To all workers: Thanks to the historical struggles of prominent Mexicans, our nation has distinguished itself as a country based on the rule of law. The most important of our laws, the General Constitution of the republic of Mexico, endows every citizen with the right and obligation to vote in the federal elections, and the constitution of each Mexican State establishes the same rights and obligations for local elections.

Thus, the people will express their democratic will to direct the nation's course on 21 August.

This expression will be made freely and without any kind of pressure so that the people will decide through their vote who will govern and represent them in the Presidency of the republic, in Congress, governorships, local councils, the Federal District Assembly, and in municipalities.

By stating the above, the Confederation of Mexican Workers [CTM], a social and political organization founded in 1936 which, through its works, has permanently acted in favor of a large sector of the population, affirms its vanguard position in pursuit of the primary objectives of the Mexican revolution, which can be summarized as the full realization of genuine social justice.

That is why we are participating in political activities that reinforce our union activities. That is why the CTM joined the Political Institute of the Revolution, in 1938, to advance and strengthen the social struggles and to have an opportunity to participate in the resolution of national issues.

In this manner, the CTM, the largest labor organization, has acted from within the PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] representing labor. In this manner the CTM has contributed its share so that our party can continue as the keeper of popular power and from the position that power can press for progress and better standards of living and working conditions for all Mexicans. We must stress in this effort the brilliant role, desire, and commitment of the working woman, whose untiring efforts have been fundamental in achieving many of our goals. The CTM supports and will continue to support Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de Leon, because he has made very positive commitments to the working class "to always defend the rights of Mexican workers." Zedillo has categorically stated: "The only changes we will allow are those changes that will unquestionably favor Mexican working men and working women; we will not retreat." Zedillo has also promised, likewise, to defend purchasing power with all his capability and all means available to him, saying: "The time has come for salary improvement in Mexico."

Our identification with Ernesto Zedillo is also based on his promises to see to it all workers and their families have access to basic comforts: housing, health, education, recreation, and essential services; to respect the laws that govern us, such as the General Constitution of

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the republic, especially Article No. 123, the Federal Labor Code, the Social Security and INFONAVIT [Institute of the National Fund for Workers Housing] Laws; and his guarantee to respect the labor benefits Mexican workers have achieved through their great efforts.

Ernesto Zedillo has outlined before the entire nation specific programs to promote investments in Mexico and to create urgently needed jobs; to improve productivity, training, and the use of technology; to develop rural areas through more technical and financial aid and protect the environment; to fight extreme poverty and provide basic public services to the needy, such as the working class; to improve and update the administering of justice with modern laws; to protect our culture and strengthen our national identity.

That statement is why we urge you to conscientiously vote for Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de Leon and the candidates nominated by the PRI, because we will obtain with Zedillo healthy, public finances to effect decent family wages and keep the gains that have allowed us workers to achieve better standards of living.

The CTM is certain Mexican workers, who have always given their best to maintain the nation's revolutionary course, will respond on this new democratic and historic date so that the PRI will win clearly and overwhelmingly due to our nation's situation.

We must march, looking toward a better future, with the PRI and Ernesto Zedillo in the 21 August elections. We do not want a change that embraces the past nor leaps into the unknown.

Fellow Workers:

The PRI is a party full of vitality, drive, and genuine, popular roots.

The PRI is the people's party: workers, peasants, teachers, women, young people, professionals, small and medium businessmen, and honest merchants, all people who are committed to the nation.

For these reasons, the CTM invites you to go to the polls on 21 August, accompanied by family members who have registered to vote, and cast your vote for the PRI in order to strengthen the country's independence and sovereignty; to achieve the well-being of the Mexican family through freedom and social harmony; and to reject the advocates of violence and distrust.

Vote for the PRI!

Because it is a vote for Mexico. Because it is a vote for your family's well-being.

Vote for Zedillo!

"For the Emancipation of Mexico"

National Committee of the CTM

Mexico City, 10 August 1994.

Person responsible for this publication: Jose Ramirez Gamero.

Institute Decides Dissemination of Preliminary Vote Results

PA1408014894

[Editorial Report] Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish at 0000 GMT on 11 August, during its "Evening News Panorama" newscast, broadcasts a report by Juan Carlos Santoyo from the Federal Electoral Institute (IFE). Santoyo says the "IFE's General Council has decided dissemination of preliminary results of the 21 August elections will begin when approximately 14,400 ballot boxes of the 96,000 to be installed throughout the country have been counted. Santoyo adds IFE General Director Arturo Nunez has said all parties will have access to the results as soon as they are received on 21 August."

Santoyo says: "Nunez has said there is a gentlemen's agreement not to disseminate the information until 15 percent of the votes has been counted, and only then will the results be publicly given to the media."

Santoyo then plays a recording of Nunez, who says: "Preliminary electoral results will be given to the parties from the moment the first ballot box arrives until 0800 on 24 August, when the district count sessions in the 300 districts begin." Santoyo says this announcement means there will be a constant flow of information. He adds there is an order to the count.

The first count will be the votes for federal deputy seats, then for senators, and, lastly, for president. He says, however, "the General Council advisers have predicted preliminary results for the presidential election will be obtained around 2200 or 2300, but they will not be publicly disseminated."

Santoyo closes by saying official results will not be made public until 15 percent of the ballot boxes has been counted.

Deputy Attorney General on Arms, Ammunition Trafficking

PA1308222194 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 8 Aug 94 pp 1, 16

["Part One" of a report by Francisco Gomez F.]

[Text] Deputy Attorney General Mario Ruiz Massieu has told UNOMASUNO the recently seized arms shipment was intended for gangsters, not subversives according to the investigation conducted by the Attorney General's Office [PGR] on arms and ammunition trafficking from the United States. In addition, the drug cartels that operate in Mexico do not rely on such shipments, because the financial power of these cartels makes it possible for them to buy arms directly from several international markets, such as Belgium, Japan, France, Russia, and others.

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Saying the number of road checkpoints will be increased throughout the country as far as the PGR budget permits—because they have been useful in reducing drug and arms trafficking—Ruiz Massieu has said the confiscation of a large number of cartridges can only be linked to arms trafficking, which has been active in the country for years. "It would be tempting to say these cartridges are linked to something else, but it is not true," he has said.

The official has said at the central PGR office it has been determined from the interrogation of detainees and arms trafficking investigations that the arms and cartridges were not intended for people involved in the Chiapas armed conflict or with PROCUP-PDLP [Clandestine Revolutionary Workers Party-Poor People's Party]. "We track the dealer and determine from where the shipment originates. They generally originate from U.S. citizens and end up most of the time in the hands of gangsters, thieves, and other criminals, rather than organizations such as the National Zapatist Liberation Army [EZLN]."

Asked for more details about the end recipients of arms and ammunition, the official said ordinary people often buy the arms, particularly because not many arms and not much ammunition are locally manufactured. We have learned of dealers selling, say, 100, 200, 1,000, 2,000 cartridges to ordinary people who are associated in no way with criminals. Detainees in these cases have taken us to stores with additional ammunition, which are intended for retailing in many instances. "This concerns the Mexican people's fondness of arms, as well as the inclination to own them, particularly in Guerrero, Oaxaca, and other states where people usually go about armed."

Concerning a probable increase in arms and ammunition trafficking as seemingly indicated by the recent seizures, Ruiz has said the seizures should not be interpreted in this manner. "Most of that ammunition was intended, generally speaking, for gangsters and other criminals and a smaller quantity for retail sale. I understand drug traffickers do not need this type of traffic, because they have their own sources of supply."

There are two different markets. One buys directly in Belgium, Japan, France, or Russia. The other consists of criminals who evidently must be prosecuted, because they are murderers, rapists assaulters, but they have no connections abroad. It is necessary to determine what types of criminals are supplied with this trafficking. The caliber of arms and ammunition sometimes gives us a fair idea of for whom they are intended, Ruiz has said.

Expanding on the road checkpoints, he has said the results are good enough to justify their continued operations and increase in number to the extent that it is financially possible and that they have been very useful in confiscating large quantities of drugs, arms, stolen cars, smuggled goods, etc.

Nevertheless, he added it is not easy to increase the number of road checkpoints, because they are expensive. You must have a number of federal and judicial policemen available around the clock, very sophisticated communications and liaison systems, and people to check the cargo in trailers and heavy vehicles.

Not mentioning the number of road checkpoints to be set up during the rest of the current administration, Ruiz has said most of them operate in high crime zones tied to drug trafficking and the activities of gangsters, highwaymen, and arms and ammunition smuggling, among others.

Cited on Drug Trafficking Cartels

PA1308222394 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 9 Aug 94 pp 1, 14

["Part Two" of a report by Francisco Gomez F.]

[Text] Drug trafficking in Mexico is controlled and operated by four cartels: brothers Arellano Felix, Juan Garcia Abrego, Amado Carrillo Fuentes, and Luis Hector Palma, alias El Guero, whose partner was Joaquin Guzman, alias El Chapo, who is already arrested. These organizations function as true business and commercial complexes or consortiums. Each organization consists of lesser groups of drug traffickers who are the cartel liaisons and branches, down to the street corner drug peddler.

Deputy Attorney General Mario Ruiz Massieu has told UNOMASUNO it would be "risky" to say the consumption of drugs in Mexico, particularly of cocaine, has increased by 500 percent. The official said during an interview neither the Attorney General's Office [PGR] nor other federal government agencies have been overtaken by drug trafficking activities.

Recounting an overall balance of the antidrug trafficking fight in Mexico during the current six-year period, Ruiz said the drug scourge has been efficiently fought, and a great effort has been made during the current administration to provide the PGR with the necessary human and material resources to eradicate the nasty drug trafficking activity from all fronts. A total of 4,000 officials joined the Federal Judicial Police; the number of agents at the Federal Public Prosecutor's Office was triplicated; and, of course, the budget has been increased in real terms.

Concerning the moralization and professionalization of the Federal Judicial Police, Ruiz said Attorney General Humberto Benitez Trevino has promised federal agents will act in accordance with the law, and any policeman caught committing arbitrary, arrogant actions or who is caught violating the law will be punished. Corruption, he added, will be punished if detected, but we can guarantee we are fighting it. We will not allow public officials to adversely affect the work of the institution with their acts of corruption.

"We are reorganizing the Federal Judicial Police, but a better police cannot be produced in six months or one

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year. We are conducting a process, and part of the process is to include the graduates of the PGR Training Institute. They will replace those who have retired or who have been discharged for various reasons. The new graduates are people who have a different mentality but need the experience. I would say much time is required to completely change a police force," he said.

We have the determination and conviction to change the Federal Judicial Police. We are not afraid, because we know it can be done, the official said. He said the Federal Judicial Police has been changing even though there are cases of irregularities.

Asked about the possible existence of 19 major drug trafficking groups in the country, Ruiz Massieu said he would not dare say how many major drug trafficking groups there are in the country. "We know there are four major organizations, which are the ones controlled by the Arellano Felix brothers, by Juan Garcia Abrego, by Amado Carrillo Fuentes, and by Palma, alias "El Guero," who used to be the associate of Guzman, alias "El Chapo."

He said each one of those four organizations are in turn divided into smaller groups of drug traffickers who serve as their liaisons or subsidiaries, down to the drug peddler on the street corner. These four big drug trafficking organizations, the existence of which we are certain, are actually true consortiums, which have an entire organization working for and supporting them.

"Finding out how many they are is irrelevant. The important thing is to arrest their leaders. To achieve that goal, we have to arrest the middlemen, the ones who generally provide the information to the leaders, he said.

Nineteen cartel groups of the Arellano Felix type or of the others previously mentioned definitely do not operate in Mexico. There are only four groups operating at that level, the structure of which is pyramidal, and their operation is similar to that of a business consortium. These four groups are divided into other groups of associates who have varying degrees of importance within the organization, he explained.

He said in addition it would be "daring" to say there has been a five-fold increase of drug consumption in the country, especially cocaine consumption. He said the organizations that are claiming this increase should prove it with overwhelming evidence.

There is no culture of cocaine consumption in Mexico, and besides, the drug is too expensive; therefore, those claims are daring, because they do not consider the various aspects, such as the increase in population. Even though there was less drug consumption in 1940, it is also necessary to note we are a country of more than 90 million people in 1994. Proportionally, it would not be valid to make such a claim without bearing this factor in mind, he concluded.

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Costa Rica

President Opposes U.S. 'Intervention' in Cuba

PA1208231294 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2148 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Text] San Jose, 12 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—Costa Rican President Jose Maria Figueres today said the Cuban people themselves must resolve the crisis in their country, and he announced opposition to intervention in Cuba by other nations such as the United States. The Social Democrat ruler pointed out: "We hope Cubans can reach a compromise."

According to Figueres, such a compromise must preserve the "achievements" of the Cuban Revolution in terms of social advances, especially in the areas of education and health. He added: "We also expect to see achievements from this new and peaceful revolution in the promotion of successful economic development."

Institute To Continue Electricity Supply to Honduras

PA1408035194 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2005 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] San Jose, 11 Aug (NOTIMEX)—Mario Hidalgo, manager of the Costa Rican Electricity Institute (ICE), confirmed today they will continue to supply approximately 60 megawatts per hour of electricity to Honduras per day.

Costa Rica is attempting to alleviate, by providing this electricity, the serious electricity crisis Honduras has been suffering for more than four months, due to the low water levels in the dam reservoir of its main hydroelectric plant, El Cajon.

Hidalgo said "we will continue to supply this amount of electricity as long as Honduras is willing to buy it." The electricity sent to Honduras is produced by the Moin Thermal Plant, located in the Costa Rican Atlantic area, which has a surplus during the morning hours. "We will export approximately 60 megawatts per hour for six hours a day, starting at midnight up to 0600," he said.

Hidalgo said Honduran representatives of the National Enterprise for Electric Power (ENEE) have guaranteed ICE they had the money to purchase this electricity, which will cost approximately $8,300 a day. "They have an account in Costa Rica to make those payments," he added.

He said Panama suspended "for reasons unknown to us" its export of 12 megawatts to Honduras on 10 August. "We have the surplus and are able to meet our commitment. Our position would change only if conditions of domestic supply and demand force us to stop exporting the electricity to Honduras," Hidalgo said.

The ICE manager said the only solution to the Honduran crisis is to immediately install thermal plants until precipitation returns to normal and the levels of the hydroelectric dam reservoirs with it. He estimated Honduras needs to invest close to $150 million in thermal plants, which will generate 150 megawatts, to resolve the situation.

"These multimillion dollar investments are justifiable, because we know the losses caused by rationing amount to approximately $1 million to $2 million a day," he said.

Hidalgo added low precipitation has been negatively affecting the Central American region for the past six years and has been particularly harmful to those countries that depend largely on their hydroelectric potential, as is the case of Honduras.

Guatemala

Low Voter Turnout Marks Legislative Elections

PA1408202594 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1653 GMT 14 Aug 94

[Excerpt] Guatemala City, 14 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—Low voter turnout and an absence of incidents marked the first few hours of elections for a new Congress in Guatemala today.

Approximately 865 candidates from 18 political parties are running for 80 seats in the new Congress, which will be officially formed on 13 September and will end its term on 14 January 1996.

Gerardo Prado, a Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE) inspector, told the media that so far there have been no incidents and that voting is taking place in complete calm.

The polls opened at 0700 (1300 GMT), and according to preliminary estimates by electoral officials, between 15 to 20 people per voting table cast their vote in these first few hours. Even though urban buses cut fares 50 percent at the request of the Chamber of Tourism (CAMTOUR), apathy has marked the first few hours of voting. According to surveys before the elections, the abstention rate will register up to 60 percent.

Prado said the TSE hopes voter turnout will be greater than that registered during the 30 January referendum to amend the constitution, when abstention reached 84 percent.

The guerrillas of the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) and the Labor and Popular Action Union (UASP), the country's main labor organization, have told the people not to vote because they do not believe the elections will solve the country's social and political crisis.

TSE Magistrate Hugo Maul today insisted that the honesty of the elections is guaranteed. The voters will elect the 80 deputies who will form the new legislature, which will have 36 fewer members than the previous one.

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Guatemalan President Ramiro De Leon Carpio, who promoted the elections as a way of "cleaning up" the legislative branch and the Supreme Court of Justice, which will be elected by the new deputies, indicated that the honesty of the elections is guaranteed.

The president held a news conference yesterday and said the era of dishonest elections is over in the country. Guatemala is the last Central American country where an armed conflict continues to be waged.

Human Rights Ombudsman Jorge Mario Garcia Laguardia, who is an observer in the elections, said this electoral process should be an example of civic pride.

According to observers, the legislative elections are a new test that will strengthen Guatemalan democracy, which has had its ups and downs. These elections will end the political crisis created after the unsuccessful coup d'etat by former President Jorge Serrano on 25 May 1993.

More than 5,000 policemen are protecting the polls to prevent any disturbances while Army troops patrol the rural areas.

General Jose Efrain Rios Montt, a former chief of state who heads the list of candidates of his Guatemalan Republican Front (FRG), a favorite to win the elections, said after voting that if he wins a seat he will promote laws to improve education, security, and justice. [passage omitted]

Grenade Thrown at Voting Center

PA1408204694 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1742 GMT 14 Aug 94

[Text] Guatemala City, 14 Aug (NOTIMEX)—Unidentified individuals today threw a fragmentation grenade, which did not explode, at a voting center in Zone 6 in northern Guatemala City, municipal firefighters reported today. Several voters fled in panic, and some women who fainted were helped by emergency aid personnel at the scene.

Authorities said the explosive device was removed by the National Police. This is the first incident in the legislative elections, during which 3.4 million voters will elect 80 deputies to replace the current 116 deputies one year before their official term ends.

Polling Stations Close

PA1508022794 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0015 GMT 14 Aug 94

[Text] Guatemala City, 14 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—Polling stations in the Guatemalan elections to elect new members of Congress closed at 1800 local time (0000 GMT). There was a low voter turnout, according to sources of several parties and the Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE).

The TSE announced that the polls would be closed and that voting took place without incident. Only certain polling tables in the interior of the country were closed early. The 132 tables in the northwestern department of Totonicapan were closed earlier than scheduled due to electricity problems.

The elections for a new parliament followed the struggle for power staged by the legislative branch, which has been accused of corruption by various social sectors and President Ramiro De Leon Carpio, who took office as chief of state in June 1993 after the thwarted self-coup by Jorge Serrano.

Preliminary Returns Favor PAN, FRG

PA1508043294 Paris AFP in Spanish 0256 GMT 15 Aug 94

[Text] Guatemala City, 14 Aug (AFP)—The preliminary, official returns of Sunday's legislative elections here have given a wide margin in the capital city to the rightist National Vanguard Party (PAN) and to the Guatemalan Republican Front (FRG), while conclusive data are not yet available from the interior.

According to figures of the TSE, after counting 230 polling tables in Guatemala City at 2030 (0230 GMT), PAN garnered 49 percent of the votes and the FRG 36 percent. These results will permit both political parties, if the trend continues, to elect at least eight of the nine deputies in the capital.

The official report only provides percentages by party but does not state the number of votes obtained by each one, nor does it give any significant voting result to the other parties that participated in the elections.

The TSE called its first news conference at 0900 (0300 GMT) to give figures on the rate of abstentionism, which, according to independent media, will be very high.

Some 18 political parties participated in today's legislative elections to renew the members of the Guatemalan parliament, effective 14 September.

Honduras

Bomb Explodes at Economy Ministry; No Injuries

PA1308150994 Paris AFP in Spanish 1451 GMT 13 Aug 94

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 13 Aug (AFP)—A bomb exploded early this morning at the Economy Ministry building, located only two blocks from the residence of President Carlos Roberto Reina, in Tegucigalpa. Authorities indicated it caused damage but no casualties.

Morazanist Front Propaganda Found

PA1308160894 Paris AFP in Spanish 1459 GMT 13 Aug 94

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 13 Aug (AFP)—Authorities report that a bomb exploded in the pre-dawn hours today

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opposite the Economy Ministry building in Tegucigalpa, only two blocks away from President Carlos Roberto Reina's residence. The bomb caused damage but no injuries.

Police bomb squad members arrived at the five-story building and, after the inspection, concluded that "C-4" explosives were used with an electronic detonator.

Police spokesmen told the press that they found Morazanist Patriotic Front (FPM) propaganda among the debris. The FPM, which operated during the last decade, was believed to no longer exist.

On Friday, an FPM communique accused the Honduran Army of a bomb explosion that killed six people on 4 July near Palmerola base, headquarters of U.S. troops in Honduras.

The FPM claimed that the Palmerola attack, in Comayagua, 80 kilometers north of Tegucigalpa, which killed six civilians and wounded 26, was the work of the "Army Death Squad, known as Battalion 3-16."

According to the guerrillas, the attack is part of "an Army strategy to intimidate the gringos" so that they pull out the 1,000 troops based in Palmerola, because as long as they remain in the country, "the national Army is redundant."

Armed Forces authorities claim that Battalion 3-16, which humanitarian organizations blame for the disappearance of 184 people between 1979 and 1989, was dissolved in 1984 and only does intelligence work now.

Explosion To Protest Economic Measure

PA1408202694 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1704 GMT 14 Aug 94

[By German Reyes]

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 14 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—A bomb explosion Saturday in one of the Economy Ministry buildings in this capital has violently expressed rejection for the economic adjustment measures the Honduran Government is promoting.

An alleged guerrilla movement called Morazanist Patriotic Front [FPM] has claimed credit for the explosion of the propaganda-type device. No one was injured by the explosion. Only some windows on the second floor of the building, in the city's downtown, were broken.

Economy Minister Delmer Urbizo Panting has condemned the action. He said: "It is not through violence that the country's problems will be resolved." He said that "Honduras has always been a poor country," and those who explode bombs that kill people and weaken the country's social stability are making a mistake.

The adjustment measures that Preisdent Carlos Roberto Reina wants to implement must be discussed by the Legislative Assembly, where the executive branch is facing an opposition buttressed by deputies of the governing Liberal Party.

Reina has said that the economic program is "inevitable" and is the only way out of the economic crisis being endured by this Central American nation, where seven of every 10 persons live in poverty and four of seven endure extreme poverty.

Honduras' foreign debt is approximately $3.7 billion and the fiscal deficit is 11.7 percent, according to Central Bank President Hugo Noe Pino.

The country also has an unfavorable trade balance of more than $500 million and a 10.7 percent inflation rate. These and less serious problems have now been augmented by the nation's energy crisis, with a deficit of more than 150 megawatts, a fact that has affected approximately 60 percent of industry.

Various sectors, including the military, agree that if no solution is found to the crisis, the situation could lead to social upheaval. If the Legislative Assembly approves the economic measures, the Honduran Government would have access to new credits with organizations such as the IMF, the World Bank, and the Inter-American Development Bank [IDB], which could deliver a little over $1 billion during the next seven years.

Currently IMF and World Bank experts are discussing in Tegucigalpa the economic program of the Honduran Government from which they are demanding a reduction in the state bureaucracy and the privatization of several public service enterprises, among other recommendations.

The president of IDB, Enrique Iglesias, was in Tegucigalpa Thursday and Friday. He said that to reduce the fiscal deficit "it is necessary to put the house in order" and praised the measures Reina wants to implement.

Iglesias said that the IDB will continue assisting Honduras and that the adjustment is necessary and should be accompanied by social compensations to redress the poor for the sacrifices that the fiscal measures imply.

The government hopes there will be no more bomb explosions as expressions of protest over the economic adjustment measures, because this would further deteriorate the situation of the country, which returned to democracy in 1982 after almost two decades of military regimes.

The economy minister said he is concerned that sectors that do not want calm may use violence to protest measures aimed at improving the country's situation.

Panama

Police Make 4 Arrests Ties to ALAS Explosion

PA1408170594 Panama City MAGAZINE DOMINICAL EL SIGLO in Spanish 14 Aug 94 p 8

[Report by Jose Gonzalez Batista]

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[Text] Panamanian authorities have in custody four foreigners, probably members of an anti-Semitic, pro-Iran cell, who are under investigation for their alleged participation in the explosion aboard an ALAS airline plane.

One judicial branch source confirmed the arrest of four Arab citizens who are suspected of blowing up an ALAS plane on 19 July killing 21 people, including 12 Jewish businessmen.

The source, who is participating in the investigation, declined to reveal the names of the detainees, their nationality, or whether they belong to Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. The source said that even with these arrests the investigation is incomplete, and it still cannot be determined whether the explosion was an attack against Jews or a settling of accounts between drug traffickers.

The information on the arrests was released after the Israeli newspaper YEDI'OT AHARONOT reported that Panamanian authorities had captured members of a terrorist cell active in Panama.

A local source reported that the explosion aboard the ALAS plane was an anti-Semitic terrorist attack by Hamas members.

The Israeli reports are based on Panamanian authorities' reports that an active cell of Hamas is operating in Panama. Such reports are based on the investigation of Lyal Jamal, a passenger on the ill-fated plane whose body has not yet been claimed by his relatives.

According to the Israeli paper, Jamal carried the explosives that blew up the plane. Jamal reportedly spent several days studying the airline's security system and the type of passengers, most of whom are Jewish businessmen.

The appearance of Jamal's body suggests that he used the suicide terrorists' technique, which consists of lowering the head and putting it and his hands between his knees so the explosion makes his face and hands unrecognizable. "The style of the Hamas suicide terrorists is intended to prevent the identification of the body so his relatives cannot be harassed or be the object of reprisals," the Israeli newspaper says.

In addition, the Panamanian source said the laboratory tests conducted in Panama and abroad revealed that two types of chemicals used to manufacture explosives were found in the plane's fuselage, but the final results will not be released for another two weeks.

The source said the evidence-gathering stage was completed last week on Santa Rita Hill, where pieces of the plane were scattered over a radius of several kilometers.

The laboratory work on the fuselage will be resumed this week in another National Air Service hangar. The results of this research will later be compared to the results of tests conducted abroad.

Last week Panamanian police began to investigate a kidnapping attempt on a Jewish businessman by unidentified individuals carrying M-16 rifles and automatic pistols and riding in three cars.

Endara Opposes Creation of 'Temporary Army'

PA1508013594 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 14 Aug 94 p 1

[Report by Manuel Alvarez Cedeno]

[Text] President Guillermo Endara said yesterday it would be "rash" to create a temporary army as President-elect Ernesto Perez Balladares had suggested, "because the sad story" of military repression "would repeat itself" in Panama. Perez Balladares mentioned this week the need to create a "temporary" army to defend national sovereignty.

Endara said he believes Perez Balladares "is wrong and is now backing down" from the electoral pledges he made during his campaign, when he said Panama did not need an army. I now see him backing down, and although he speaks of a temporary army, we all know "if one is created, it will stay with us," Endara added.

Perez Balladares said: "We, the Panamanian people, cannot deny ourselves the right to defend ourselves. The creation of an army should not be banned for this reason. We should create it according to the Constitution and on the condition that it is temporary."

Endara asked Perez Balladares to check Panama's history and see "how difficult it was to get rid of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP]." He recalled "it was necessary for us to experience the international shame of a U.S. intervention to shed the evil" of military rule.

U.S. troops who invaded Panama in 1989 disabled the FDP. The Public Force was created later with the majority of soldiers who had made up the FDP.

The president-elect's remarks have "truly upset" President Endara. The proposals presented at the assembly do not truly contemplate an army. They state only Panama shall not have an army, he added.

The assembly is discussing several amendments to eliminate the provision for an army and ban its creation in the Constitution. "God forbid the creation of a 'temporary' army! Who would remove it from our shoulders once it has been created?," he asked. "I hope he is careful with his words, because he is disregarding one of his electoral pledges," Endara added. He also said Perez Balladares might be "trying to please his militarist, fellow party members."

Endara said that, if an army is created, it would be equivalent to "going backward and reviving the sad story of military rule in Panama" and that this "should never be permitted." He also said that he will remain watchful as of September, when he will hand over the president's

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office, and that he wholeheartedly opposes "this foolish idea of creating a temporary army."

Endara said that the amendment proposal contemplates the creation of special forces for special circumstances but that this does not mean an army. "A temporary army would become a forever army, and we would require another invasion to get rid of it, but this matter is something we never want to experience again," he said.

Endara said that there is a Rapid Reaction Group in the National Police but that "this group does not at all entail the existence of a temporary army."

Others React to President-Elect's Plan

PA1508013794 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 14 Aug 94 p 1

[Text] After the announcement by President-elect Ernesto Perez Balladares on establishing a provisional army in Panama, leaders of civic organizations, former military officers, and constitutionalists stated yesterday they oppose the future president's proposal, and PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party] members said they backed the measure.

Perez Balladares said he favored the creation of a provisional army, within constitutional statutes, because Panamanians cannot be denied the right to defend themselves.

The Legislative Assembly must decide next week whether to approve or reject an amendment to Article 305 of the Constitution, which allows civilian authorities to create a special military force.

Osvaldo Velasquez, president of the Permanent Committee for the Defense of Human Rights (CPDH), said he disagrees with Dr. Ernesto Perez Balladares' proposal on creating a provisional army in Panama, because this measure would represent a multimillion dollar investment that contrasts with the social problems that have to be resolved.

Meanwhile, Fernando Quezada, former mayor of the former Panama Defense Forces, said the country only needs a police force. Quezada said that the conformation of an army would require enormous economic resources the country does not have and that it would be more wise to present the idea of establishing a military organization to a national debate.

PRD Legislator Balbina Herrera Arauz believes Panama requires a special police force to comply with international agreements and to guarantee security in the national territory.

Meanwhile, former Supreme Court Justice Cesar Quintero said he rejects the proposal of establishing a provisional army to defend the country's sovereignty, because even if such a force were provisional in the beginning, it would stay for forever at the end.

Government Minister Jacobo Salas said he opposes the creation of a provisional army, based on the Constitution, on the pretext of ensuring national defense.

"The abuses and humiliations committed by the Army in Panama for 21 years lead us to believe we cannot allow a return to militarism," the government and justice minister said.

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Argentina

Caputo: Policy on Haiti 'Not a Step Backward'

PY1308000594 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2000 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 12 Aug (NA)—On 12 August, Former Foreign Minister Dante Caputo stated that the Argentine Government's decision not to send troops to Haiti in the first stage of a possible military invasion of the island "is not a step backward," but rather an attempt "to give a political opportunity" to the de facto government that rules that country.

Caputo ruled out the "imminent" sending of a UN mission to Haiti to find a peaceful solution that may facilitate the stepping down of the military regime.

Caputo, UN mediator in Haiti, pointed out that his participation in the UN peace mission "has not yet been defined." He estimated that "the practical modalities" will be settled "next week."

Caputo noted that "our wish is to find a peaceful solution for Haiti." He said he felt confident that "the action that we are going to undertake will stave off" an armed intervention.

In pointing out that "the United Nations has to strictly abide by Security Council resolutions," he voiced his confidence in "finding a peaceful solution through a renewed effort" by UN mission members.

"We are not going to reopen negotiations by any means. We are going to try to find the way to implement what has already been decided by the Security Council," he remarked, adding that "it goes without saying that we want to find a solution."

He further stated that the Argentine Government's decision not to send troops to Haiti in the first stage of a possible military invasion of the island "is not a step backward," but rather an attempt "to give a political opportunity" to the de facto government that rules that country."

With regard to relations between the United Nations and the Haitian Government, Caputo said that "no indication as to a change has been received."

He also spoke in defense of the economic blockade the United Nations imposed on Haiti, noting that "it serves to remind the allies of the military regime of the international community's will to establish democracy as the only method for lifting the embargo." He made it clear, however, that "it is quite hard."

"The blockade and economic sanctions are elements that cannot be used indiscriminately because precisely those whom one likes and does not want to harm are the ones who have to bear the brunt of these measures," he said.

Caputo, speaking on the radio from New York, pointed out that the United Nations "deems that the blockade cannot go on indefinitely."

He criticized the stance adopted by the Haitian church, which rejected the UN resolution allowing an armed intervention in the Caribbean country "because it argues that it will bring about casualties and torture, but they do not condemn the violations of human rights that are taking place at the moment."

"Two or three people are killed every day, four or five are tortured, and not a single word has been said about what has been happening for two and a half years. Still they condemn what is going to take place in the future," he said.

Court Asks Foreign Ministry To Report on Iranians

PY1308014594 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2040 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 12 Aug (NA)—The Supreme Court today asked the Foreign Ministry to urgently report on the authenticity of the diplomatic accreditation of Iranian Embassy officials and former officials mentioned by Federal Judge Juan Jose Galeano in the investigation into the Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association [AMIA] bombing.

At the end of a short meeting at noon today, during which the Supreme Court called a recess until 16 August, Justice Enrique Petracchi confirmed that the court sent a fax to the Foreign Ministry asking if the Iranians mentioned by Galeano were accredited at the Foreign Ministry.

The information will permit the court to decide, among other things, on its possible intervention due to "original jurisdiction," as established in the Constitution, in the case of foreign diplomats involved in criminal activities.

It was also decided that once the Foreign Ministry sends its report, the court will ask Attorney General Attorney Oscar Fappiano, as the natural court prosecutor, to issue an opinion on the issue of jurisdiction.

Petracchi made clear that Judge Galeano continues at the head of the investigation because "one thing is the investigation in general and another is the investigation of registered diplomats" as such.

The Supreme Court met for about half an hour at noon today. The justices briefly discussed the case of the AMIA bombing without reaching any conclusion and will now wait for the Foreign Ministry report.

Judge Galeano called for the national and international capture of four Iranian diplomats who apparently are no longer in the country. He also mentioned three Iranian Embassy diplomats as "suspects."

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According to court spokesmen, during the meeting—between 1300 and 1330—the justices reportedly finished discussing two other pending cases.

The sources said the justices decided to meet again on 16 August in order to continue analyzing Judge Galeano's report and the issue of jurisdiction derived from the attack on the AMIA building that resulted in the death of 83 individuals, according to official figures.

Di Tella Told by Iran's Velayati Motamer 'Impostor'

PY1308030394 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1915 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Text] Tehran, 12 Aug (AFP-NA)—Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati today said that the man behind the accusations on the possible participation of Iranians in the bloody attack against the Jewish community in Buenos Aires on 18 July was an "impostor."

Velayati sent a message to that effect to Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella, referring to Manuchehr Motamer, an Iranian citizen who, according a reliable source at the Argentine Foreign Ministry, walked into the Argentine Embassy in Ecuador on 11 August to place himself at the disposal of the (Argentine) justice to cooperate with the investigation into the attack.

Velayati, who placed the message in the hands of Martin Rivolta, business attache at the Argentine Embassy in Tehran, said that Iran has "detailed information on the real identity of the impostor," who, according to the minister, was "manipulated by the Zionists."

"The fact that within a month an ordinary businessman presents himself successively as culture vice minister, a high-ranking diplomatic official, and a secretary of the Islamic Orientation minister, among other things, should have clearly made any serious investigator understand that his declarations could not be taken into account to tarnish the reputation of irreproachable individuals," Velayati said.

The Argentine justice issued orders for the international arrest of four Iranians who are suspected of having been involved in the attack. Three of them are former diplomats who worked at the Iranian Embassy in Buenos Aires. The fourth is a deputy who made an official visit to Argentina in December 1993. Three other Iranian diplomats currently serving in Buenos Aires are also suspects.

The Iranian news agency IRNA, citing Velayati's letter, said that Motamer left Iran at an undetermined date to travel to Cuba via Turkey.

"He was totally ruined when he contacted the Iranian Embassy in Caracas and before being manipulated by the Zionists," the agency says.

According to unidentified sources in Buenos Aires, the bulk of the accusations Judge Juan Jose Galeano, who is in charge of the investigation, levied against the Iranians are based on Motamer's testimony.

The Argentine Foreign Ministry indicated that Judge Galeano will go to Quito to hear the repentant Iranian's testimony.

Mohammad Hussein Fadaifar, Iranian Foreign Ministry director general, who was cited by IRNA, reiterated Tehran's rejection of the accusations made against the Iranians as "groundless and undocumented."

He said his country was "willing to cooperate with the Argentine Government to prove that the accusations are politically based."

Petrella: 'Not Advisable' To Bring Iranian to Argentina

PY1308033894 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2147 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 12 Aug (NA)—On 12 August, Deputy Foreign Minister Fernando Petrella stated that "it is not advisable" to bring the "repentant" Iranian Manuchehr Motamer to Argentina to testify before Federal Judge Juan Jose Galeano in the case involving the attack on the Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association [AMIA] headquarters.

Petrella further stated that he had no information that Motamer had requested asylum in Argentina. He confirmed that the "repentant" official who cooperated with the inquest into the AMIA attack "went to the Argentine Embassy in Quito to talk."

He also stated that Motamer "continues under the protection of the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees," adding that "for the time being, Argentina does not intend to take any diplomatic action."

Asked about the possibility of requesting Iranian Ambassador to Argentina Hadi Soleymanpur to leave the country, Petrella said "that depends on how the inquest unfolds and on the evidence resulting from it."

To that effect, he stated that a possible expulsion of Soleymanpur from the country will also depend on "the cooperation of the Iranian Government" with the inquest concerning the bloody attack perpetrated on 18 July.

In remarks to a radio station, Petrella stated that the Iranian Government's response to the accusations arising from Judge Galeano's court report "are part of action and reaction mechanisms" because "governments in general are reluctant to admit any links with illegal activities."

Upon being asked whether Argentine diplomats in Tehran can be considered safe there, Petrella replied that the Foreign Ministry "had not been alerted about the possibility of any type of violation of the rights of diplomatic officials" who are at present in that country.

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Government Warns of Possible Terrorist Attack

PY1208221594 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2033 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 12 Aug (NA)—The government reported this afternoon that it has established "in an irrefutable manner" that another terrorist attack may be perpetrated by international terrorism.

A communique released this afternoon states that "the information was obtained and confirmed by domestic and international intelligence services that are absolutely reliable." It states that this is the only way the government will inform public opinion about the issue.

The press communique states:
1. Within the framework of the investigations being conducted, the government has established in an irrefutable manner that another terrorist attack may be perpetrated by international terrorism.
2. This information was obtained and confirmed by domestic and international intelligence services that are absolutely reliable. The concrete threat of a terrorist attack is not circumscribed to Argentine territory but might include some neighboring countries.
3. For security and operational reasons, the federal government has decided to keep its information sources confidential. It is obliged to report that one source was the Israeli Government which, through its ambassador in our country, informed the Argentine foreign minister of this possibility on 12 August.
4. Aware of the seriousness of the situation and of its responsibility, the government informs the people in order to act with total openness seeking to prevent a climate of alarm and confusion in the face of inevitable measures that must be adopted to stave off this threat.
5. The government seeks to guarantee its total commitment to preserve the unity of all Argentines, without any distinctions, as one of the barriers to prevent a terrorist attack. One of the main objectives of terrorism is to sow the seeds of division in societies, which, like ours, have been established and are growing inspired by democratic and pluralist convictions.
6. The national government assumes that these circumstances come within the frame of a state problem and reports that today:

—It asked the Congressional Committee on Security and Intelligence Organizations, which control these functions, to meet. The meeting was attended by Committee Chairman Deputy Miguel Angel Toma (PJ) [Justicialist Party], First Deputy Chairman Senator Eduardo Vaca (PJ), Second Deputy Chairman Deputy Jesus Rodriguez (UCR) [Radical Civic Union], and Committee Secretary Deputy Juan Gauna (UCR). The committee heard the executive branch report and decided to stay in permanent contact with government officials.

—Justice Minister Rodolfo Barra went to the Supreme Court to brief justices on the news.

—The presidents of political parties represented in Congress were also briefed on the situation.

—Chamber of Deputies and Senate bloc leaders were informed of the situation.

—Governors from the 24 provinces were briefed through a Interior Ministry cable, which was complemented by phone calls between Interior Minister Carlos Ruckauf and provincial governors.

—The government requested newspaper, radio, and television station directors to provide total cooperation.

[Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS at 2158 GMT on 12 August adds: "On the afternoon of 12 August, the government reported that it had placed emergency services at 33 hospitals in the City of Buenos Aires 'on full alert' given the possibility of other attacks by international terrorism.

[In a communique, the government stated that 'prevention measures have been taken on health services so as to efficiently and speedily respond to any emergency.'"]

Menem Gives 'Precise Instructions'

PY1308020994 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0133 GMT 13 Aug 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 12 Aug (NA)—President Carlos Menem gave "precise instructions to the members of the cabinet who are in charge of implementing security measures geared to warding off a possible terrorist attack."

A communique issued by the Media Secretariat this evening states that "the head of state is in permanent communication with Interior Minister Carlos Ruckauf, Secretary General of the Presidency Eduardo Bauza, and Media Secretary Guillermo Seita."

Security Measures Implemented

PY1208231894 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2255 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 12 Aug (NA)—On the evening of 12 August, the federal government ordered the police to guard public buildings and all places which "may be considered strategic and liable to be the target of a terrorist attack."

A press communique adds that security forces have been instructed "to control borders, airports, hydroelectric dams, and other places considered strategic."

Interior Minister Carlos Ruckauf has ordered provincial governors to adopt measures similar to those implemented by the federal government in view of the possibility of a terrorist attack.

Further on Security Measures

PY1308002094 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2319 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 12 Aug (NA)—[passage omitted] With regard to the security measures adopted

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in view of a possible terrorist attack, the federal government has given the following instructions:

1. The Federal Police has been ordered not to allow the parking of vehicles outside any objective on any account, pursuant to what has been established by security forces.
2. Air patrol and regular police patrol of the City of Buenos Aires have also been ordered. The personnel in charge of these operations have been alerted to the possibility of another attack.
3. Public buildings and institutions and all places that may be considered strategic and likely to be the objective of a terrorist attack have been placed under guard.
4. Special security forces have been commanded to maintain a guard on all mass media.
5. Security forces (Border Police, Argentine Coast Guard, Air Force Police) have been instructed to control—each according to its jurisdiction—border checkpoints, airports, hydroelectric dams, and other strategic points. [passage omitted]

Moreover, community leaders, institutions, the press, etc. have been requested not to engage in actions that may hampe. the normal development of work and leisure activities by all inhabitants of the country.

Menem Admits Possible Excesses in Security Measures

PA1408193294 Paris AFP in Spanish 1614 GMT 14 Aug 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 Aug (AFP)—Argentine President Carlos Menem said the government "might have been a bit excessive" when it broadcasted a report by the Israeli Embassy and intelligence agencies regarding the likelihood of a new terrorist attempt in the country.

On the other hand, a government source announced this Sunday that the Argentine Government had arranged special protection with the U.S. CIA for repentant Iranian national Manuchehr Motamer, who has been in hiding somewhere in Quito, Ecuador, since Thursday, 11 August. Motamer is a key figure in the investigation of the bloody attack on a Jewish organization in Buenos Aires on 18 July.

Menem questioned the four official communiques related to the likelihood of new attempts, which were released on 12 August in Buenos Aires while he was away on vacation in his native province of La Rioja, northeastern Argentina.

He acknowledged that "it was necessary to disclose the information to the community so it could be on alert" but said "it might have been excessive to refer to operating rooms being available" for any possible emergency.

"This is incredible. In the end we are behaving like Orson Wells. We seek to prevent any further attempts, yet what we are going to accomplish is to have the people commit suicide," unidentified government officials told the media.

One measure of the degree of alarm is the fact that players from Nahuel, an amateur hockey team, did not show up this Saturday for an official match against the Jewish club Nautico Hacoaj for fear of a possible attack.

The unease that has gripped the population, which was somewhat attenuated this Sunday due to the long weekend in Argentina, prompted the Buenos Aires government to proclaim that no additional information will be added to what was announced on Friday.

Nevertheless, the state of alert and vigilance by security forces at likely targets such as Jewish and Islamic community organizations remains in effect.

On the other hand, it was reported today that the Argentine Government had requested special protection from the CIA (U.S. Central Intelligence Agency) for "repentant" Iranian Manuchehr Motamer, a key figure in the investigation into the brutal 18 July attack against a Jewish organization in Buenos Aires.

An unidentified government source in Buenos Aires said Motamer is currently somewhere in Quito, Ecuador under the protection of the UNHCR, which is headquartered at the Ecuadoran Bishop's Conference.

The Argentine Government is concerned about the witness' safety because, among other reasons, it believes that the UNHCR's building in Ecuador "is vulnerable." The government also indicated, however, that it does not want to transfer Motamer to Argentina to avoid putting him at risk.

"If we transfer him to Argentina, he is a "dead man" unless we put him in a maximum security cell," the source said, explaining government reluctance to bring Motamer to Argentina.

For this reason, it was explained, Argentina turned to the CIA to request adequate protection for Motamer, a request to which the U.S. agency has already responded positively.

Coast Guard Arrests Iranian Carrying False Passport

PY1308010694 Buenos Aires Telefe LS84 Television network in Spanish 2200 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Text] The Coast Guard has arrested an Iranian citizen trying to board the ship La Carrera, which was scheduled to sail for Montevideo. The individual was identified as (Loren Fabre), 24, who tried to board the ship with a forged French passport. Personnel of the Coast Guard Penal Investigations Directorate [Direccion de Investigaciones Penales de la Prefectura—DIPA] are questioning the individual at this moment.

Brazil

Government Experts Minimize Rising Consumption

PY1208203894 Sao Paulo AGENCIA ESTADO in Portuguese 2208 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Article by Beatriz Abreu]

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[Text] Brasilia, 10 Aug (AE)—Economic team members have described increased sales since late July as "just a slight rise in consumption." They concluded that the increase merely reflects a return to the consumption levels of June. They add that lower income sectors of the public mainly account for the rise. One member of the team said: "Sales of inexpensive products at inexpensive stores have increased." This conclusion has reassured Finance Minister Rubens Ricupero, who deems it unnecessary to adopt measures at this time to discourage credit to consumers.

One adviser said: "Although consumption appears to be rising, the situation does not yet call for additional measures." Experts believe the government should wait a little longer, perhaps another month, to have a better picture of consumption trends. They believe the market itself will bring credit to consumers under control and provide better conditions for determining whether the increased sales could endanger the Real Plan. The experts believe one factor that prompted increased sales—that is, easy credit lines—will dry up when stores and finance organizations start looking for new resources to finance their sales to consumers.

Finance Ministry experts said: "Banks will be more selective," adding that this first credit expansion since the implementation of the real has been supported by the banks which offered credit lines to stores and finance groups. This move made it easy for consumers to buy in installments. Furthermore, Ricupero wants to determine if the increased sales affected more expensive items; that is, whether more expensive stores also increased their sales. If this is the case, the government could adopt restrictive measures like reducing deadlines for paying installments, including those purchases charged to credit cards.

Experts contend, however, that this is just "a slight rise in consumption," and that the government expected it to happen. One expert said: "Following an initial period of hesitation regarding the plan, it is normal for consumers to start buying again once they realize prices are dropping." They believe that at no time has the increased consumption affected prices, which continues to follow a declining trend. The experts said Minister Ricupero has information that manufacturers continue to give discounts to stores.

Colombia

Samper Interviewed on Plans for Governing

PA1208225894 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 7 Aug 94 p 8A

[Interview with President Ernesto Samper Pizano by EL TIEMPO political writers Maria Teresa Ronderos and Jesus Ortiz Nieves; place and date not given]

[Text] [EL TIEMPO] How are you receiving the country?

[Samper] I receive it packed with longstanding problems. Narcoterrorism ended, but we are entering a phase of narcocorruption. Public order issues still worry us. The rebel groups continue to splinter, which could be good or bad, depending on how we see it. The economy is in good condition. Overall figures are acceptable. I will have to make great efforts, however, to solve serious social problems. Not only is there poverty, but it has been getting progressively worse for the past decade. I am also receiving a Constitution I hope I will be able to amend. As for the internationalization of the economy, we need to continue making some adjustments.

[EL TIEMPO] During your campaign, you strongly criticized the Cesar Gaviria administration's social policies and promised a major shift in this issue. But now you are more moderate. Will your government be one of continuity? Will social changes emerge slowly?

[Samper] The president's first duty is to check out the situation. My government will promote an important plan to show people the paths to follow: a path of dignity in our international relations; a path of commitment in such issues as peace and defense of human rights; a path to recover lost values; and a path of social change in the implementation of economic policies.

Second, I indeed have my own political project; it is not a new project but dates back to some time ago. I believe we share important issues with Gaviria and Barco, issues that give the country a kind of institutional liquidity. We cannot play with these issues. We are following the same path regarding aspects such as the Armed Forces' civil behavior and the primarily orthodox manner in which the economy is being handled. These policies have allowed Colombia to resist despite the storm of violence the country is weathering.

Therefore, we need to defend the foundations on which I expect to forge new social policies. I want to prove there are opportunities to build an alternative development model in Latin America.

[EL TIEMPO] Will your governing style be different from Gaviria's?

[Samper] My government style is a style of talks, consensus, and no oppression. I always play the game with the cards on the table. Perhaps this style will bring me more troubles than benefits, but I have always said that if one governs honestly, people understand the mistakes and the number of successes will increase.

[EL TIEMPO] What will the style of the new presidential family be?

[Samper] My wife, Jaquin, and I want do not want people to feel that Narino Palace is the president's golden cage. We want them to feel Narino Palace is an open place. We want to hold concerts and cultural events there to make sure the people feel the palace also belongs to them.

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[EL TIEMPO] Did the fact that you had to collect support to win three elections as, in fact, you did, not commit you to satisfying other interests?

[Samper] On the contrary, the three elections guaranteed the strength of the post to which people elected me. Of course the government made no commitments. I do not feel obligated to satisfy any other interest.

[EL TIEMPO] People closely related to politics and the Liberals who supported you went to the organizations of control. Do you think these organizations will be independent enough to supervise your government?

[Samper] I said posts such as the prosecutor general and the comptroller general should not be linked to politics, and I asked congressmen to examine all resumes. They did just that, and I respect their decisions. I think the prosecutor general, the comptroller general, and the attorney general will work within the guidelines of efficiency and honesty.

[EL TIEMPO] What will the government do if they don't?

[Samper] I am asking the country to wait. I am sure they will prove with facts that the Senate and Congress did not make a mistake by choosing them. In any event, the government is willing to let their actions be supervised and their ledgers be audited. I think this is good for democracy.

[EL TIEMPO] Will you extend the treasury supervisor's term?

[Samper] We have already established a supervisory post, for which the National Electoral Council will assume responsibility. The Law of the Parties also has provisions on ethical controls within the parties. In addition, my government will set the guidelines to avoid funneling public funds to electoral campaigns. The treasury overseer is leaving a healthy attitude behind regarding the manner in which the origins and allocation of public funds must be supervised. We must keep the spirit of the treasury supervisory post alive.

[EL TIEMPO] But will you keep the post?

[Samper] No. The National Electoral Council can easily perform the treasury overseer's functions.

[EL TIEMPO] You said you expect to have the vote of the legislators who supported you when you present your proposals to Congress. Isn't that asking the legislative branch to bow to the executive's will?

[Samper] No, not at all. I hope the legislators who are familiar with my program and who defended it in their regions will support it in Congress. I expect a commitment on the fundamentals without implying that this rules out their opportunity to debate, enrich, or complement the program.

[EL TIEMPO] President Gaviria was criticized because he obtained the support of congressmen for some of his projects by exchanging favors, posts, breakfasts, and so forth. Will you continue this procedure?

[Samper] Contact with the Congress president is healthy. I do not think it is a bad idea for the president to talk with Congress about projects so they are aware of the importance of this or that law. If that can be done during a breakfast, I do not think it is a sin.

[EL TIEMPO] Is the handing out of posts legal?

[Samper] No, it is not, nor do I believe that President Gaviria established that system. In my opinion, it would be a totally inappropriate way of convincing a legislator, aside from being an offense.

[EL TIEMPO] Minister Hommes said that in order to implement the social reform, you have proposed another tax reform. Is that true?

[Samper] No, it is not. In the first place, the social policy we have outlined is not a traditional policy of assistance that simply carries a sizable budget increase. This is a new social policy, more efficient and with even greater participation in some areas of the private sector through the NGO's [nongovernmental organizations]. In the second place, social policy is not only a problem of more funds; the idea is to demonstrate that economic policy can be implemented with social criteria the same way we should implement social policy with economic criteria. Finally, there are some mechanisms for controlling tax evasion and improving efficiency in tax collection that will also allow us, without increasing taxes, to have more resources available.

[EL TIEMPO] Can Colombians be certain that your government will not raise the VAT [value-added tax]?

[Samper] Yes, they can.

[EL TIEMPO] Where will the government get the money to purchase the promised 1 million hectares for the Agrarian Reform?

[Samper] We will use the powers of the new framework law in the agrarian sector, which allows us to subsidize up to 70 percent of the lands purchased for peasants. Anyway, I do not think there is a big land conflict right now. Due to unfortunate circumstances, there is a large supply of land. This will ease the task of subsidizing the peasants.

We also have an ambitious program to grant a massive number of land titles. All this will allow us to reach the 1 million hectarea goal.

It isn't as if nothing has been done; it is simply that we cannot leave things half done. All the southeastern Asian nations initiated their industrial takeoff once they had consolidated their agrarian reform process.

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[EL TIEMPO] Many people expect you to reestablish some protective barriers in certain sectors. Couldn't this prompt a string of requests that would endanger the opening process?

[Samper] No, it would not, because the very essence of the opening will not be set back. Nevertheless, during the campaign I upheld the need to establish selective and temporary forms of protection to avoid illegal competition or to compensate for differences in production conditions. In the case of textiles, many Latin American countries are imposing high barriers to stem the flow of certain Asian textiles that are manufactured under totally unequal conditions in terms of our countries' manufacturing capabilities. In those cases, we should not hesitate to implement protective measures.

[EL TIEMPO] Won't more developed nations retaliate?

[Samper] No, because many of those compensatory measures are allowed, even by the GATT.

[EL TIEMPO] It is no secret that drug money is being laundered through the importation of over-invoiced goods, and this, in turn, adversely affects domestic production. What can be done about this problem?

[Samper] In many cases the opening is being used for money laundering. We must therefore reestablish some minimum customs controls, if not physical at least statistical. For example, price references can be established to determine if there is a phenomena of under or over invoicing. We cannot keep the system totally open.

[EL TIEMPO] In a letter to several U.S. congressmen, you said it was necessary to create a binational control network to combat money laundering. Wouldn't this start a witch-hunt in a nation whose economy could be saturated with money laundering?

[Samper] There is a proposal to define in Colombia the crime of money laundering. But this measure will be useless unless we receive international cooperation because money laundering is usually a bilateral or multilateral crime. It should be persecuted internationally with the exchange of information and joint action by the authorities.

[EL TIEMPO] The SAC [Association of Colombian Farmers] has reported the purchase of 4 million hectares by drug traffickers; that is money laundering. Many totally legal industries have been purchased by drug traffickers. When you talk about persecuting money launderers, do you mean to put all these industries out in the open, or will this be done from now on?

[Samper] All follow-up must be done in terms of the money; it has to come from one place and go to another. If we cannot establish where it is coming from, we cannot determine whether it is illegal. That is why I repeat that this issue is one of coordination and cooperation among the nations.

[EL TIEMPO] You made very firm commitments to Santa Fe de Bogota. Will you make good on your word?

[Samper] I will. My commitments to the city were, basically, developing the metropolitan railway, recovering the Santa Fe de Bogota River, establishing an advisory office for social activities, guided, naturally, by the mayor, and a citizens' protection statute. I expect the city, of course, to elect a mayor who can back my proposals, because I cannot carry them out by myself.

[EL TIEMPO] Will you back a particular candidate?

[Samper] I am waiting for proposals.

[EL TIEMPO] Pardo stated at some time guerrillas would come to an end on 7 August 1994. Do you believe there will be no guerrillas on 7 August 1998?

[Samper] That is a statement every president must make at the beginning of his government. What president does not want peace in this country?

[EL TIEMPO] What mechanisms do you propose to attain peace?

[Samper] It is necessary to maintain our military presence. It is essential to negotiate from a position of power and maintain ways of understanding.

[EL TIEMPO] It has been said there have been too many prosecutor generals but too little prosecutor general's work. Do you believe it is necessary to start from scratch in the institution?

[Samper] We must remember the two fundamental functions of the Prosecutor General's Office. One is political, the other instrumental, so to speak. The phrase "too many prosecutors but too little prosecutor general's work" not only is a good one but has a deeper meaning. The prosecutor general must politically represent justice and a willingness for justice before the people. In this respect, Prosecutor General Gustavo de Greiff enjoyed very high credibility. He has lent credibility to justice as a society value. This factor is important in a country where the idea of prevailing impunity is spreading. I believe we are more backward in the instrumental portion of the work, but we must keep working.

[EL TIEMPO] Will there be a starting from scratch?

[Samper] No. I believe it is necessary to keep improving the prosecutor general's work. This office should always be headed by a person who enjoys credibility with the people and foreign governments. Just as de Greiff, Dr. Valdivieso is fulfilling this task.

[EL TIEMPO] How does the government intend to improve Colombia's tarnished image in the international sphere?

[Samper] We will implement a form of preventive diplomacy. We cannot wait for problems to go off in our hands and then try to explain them away. Colombian

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ambassadors must explain their efforts on human rights, environmental protection, our role in the fight against drug trafficking.

[EL TIEMPO] Is the image not a reflection of reality? How could we change an image if reality has not changed?

[Samper] We are a country of more interest for the media now that the Cold War is over, that the human rights problem in Central America has been solved, that there are many environmental protection movements in Europe, and that the international role of organizations for the defense of human rights has changed. I am not disregarding the pressure in many instances of certain commercial interests hiding behind human rights or environmental defense to erect free trade barriers. All of these factors have made Colombia fully overhaul its international policy to make it much more active and dynamic.

[EL TIEMPO] Do you believe the United States should invade Haiti?

[Samper] As a matter of principle, Colombia has never supported the use of force for international purposes. Concerning Haiti, not all the possibilities of understanding and reconciliation have been used up before even deciding to use force.

[EL TIEMPO] Will you travel to the United States soon?

[Samper] Yes. I plan on attending Gaviria's swearing-in ceremony as OAS secretary general in September, buy I would like very much for my first trip abroad to be to Venezuela.

[EL TIEMPO] Do you plan on traveling often?

[Samper] Yes, but for work reasons only.

[EL TIEMPO] Do you have any weakness that could cause you trouble as president of the Republic?

[Samper] No. I do not believe I have any.

[EL TIEMPO] What personal strength do you trust best?

[Samper] Perhaps calmness. I do not lose my temper.

[EL TIEMPO] Would criticism from the press make you lose your temper?

[Samper] I am upset by unfair criticism stemming from personal hatred; otherwise, I believe the people have the absolute right to voice opposition and feel dissatisfied. I believe one should receive criticism humbly and incorporate it into the framework of what the country is seeking.

[EL TIEMPO] You still have to appoint certain officials. Which of those positions do you believe require fully trustworthy individuals?

[Samper] In addition to the first lady? The secretary general is very important, because he is the goalkeeper, so to speak. He reassures me by ensuring everything brought to me for signing has been checked. Generally speaking, small details are the cause of slips. The peace commissioner might come next. The person handling the economy is crucial. I believe I have a good team of people in planning and finance who have understood well in the past few years what I believe about the economy.

[EL TIEMPO] Will there be a humorous president for all Colombians or only for his closest circle of friends?

[Samper] I will try to be humorous, as far as circumstances permit, naturally.

Paraguay

Lebanese Man Arrested in Connection With AMIA

PY1208165794 Lambare Paraguay Radio Cardinal in Spanish 1410 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Report by Ciudad del Este journalist Benjamin, surname unknown, to studio announcer Oscar Acosta in Asuncion—live]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Benjamin] Oscar, I believe you aren't receiving the signal well any more.

[Acosta] Is Judge Carlos Monges there? Would it be possible to talk to him through you, Benjamin?

[Benjamin] No, I don't believe this is possible any longer. I will, however, ask Guido.

However, what Carlos Monges said was, basically: Following a petition filed by Interpol Beirut, we have come here to Ciudad del Este. We have enlisted Judge Hector Raul Samaniego's assistance. Judge Samaniego issued an inspection warrant for Apartment No. 603 on the sixth floor of the Jebai Center building. We confirmed the presence of a Lebanese citizen, whose characteristics correspond with those supplied by Interpol Beirut.

Wait a second, now.

[Guido] I believe we have finished our task here, Benjamin. The operation has been practically entirely concluded. They have left for the National Police headquarters, and the detainee will remain incommunicado for three days. The lady here at Apartment No. 603 is being accompanied by the detainee's brother.

[Acosta] Well, now. I have missed two things. First, what did Judge Carlos Monges say about the AMIA [Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association] issue?

[Guido] On various occasions Monges said that the detainee would be or [words indistinct], but would be one of the people involved, Benjamin. [passage omitted]

[Benjamin] Oscar, I suggest the following: Let's maintain this signal. We will cut into advertisements or anything else being broadcast as soon as we manage to talk to Judge Carlos Monges.

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[Acosta] No, I would just like to ask you to repeat a bit of the information for me. We already have the detainee's name: Akram Frahap, about 30 years of age, Lebanese citizenship, and living in the Jebai Center building. What floor did you say?

[Benjamin] Sixth floor, Apartment No. 603, with a balcony on Carlos Antonio Lopez Avenue.

[Acosta] And according to initial reports, for how long has he been living there?

[Benjamin] Mrs. Frahap, who is staying in the apartment, said: They have been in Paraguay for seven years, and have been living in this apartment for one year. [passage omitted]

[Benjamin] Oscar, Oscar, I am being told that Judge Carlos Monges is available now.

[Acosta] Yes, go ahead.

[Benjamin] Daniel Canete, go ahead.

[Canete] At this moment, Dr. Monges is greeting the officers who are on duty. May I bother you for a moment, Dr. Monges, Oscar Acosta of Radio Cardinal is on the line.

[Acosta] Good morning, doctor.

[Monges] Good morning, Oscar.

[Acosta] Thank you, Judge Monges, for your attention. We are looking forward to receiving a call from the Radio Rivadavia people in Buenos Aires. As you will understand, judge, this is significant information for them and for us. What are the reports on these proceedings, and how is this Lebanese citizen linked with the case in Argentina, judge?

[Monges] We are handling confidential data, Oscar. In respecting the work being performed by Interpol Asuncion with Interpol Beirut, unfortunately I cannot disclose these data to the public. We are handling various possibilities, various data. I repeat, however, that unfortunately we cannot supply any concrete data, because we must investigate a great deal of information that we have gathered this morning in Ciudad del Este, and basically the testimony of this Lebanese citizen.

[Acosta] What proceedings will be followed now, judge? I believe you have reported...[pauses] I more or less heard you saying first that it would be appropriate for you to authorize a three-day incommunicado status? Is this right?

[Monges] The law authorizes me to establish this period, a three-day incommunicado status, which does not include the right to defense, which represents a constitutional right. The idea is to prevent this citizen from contacting other people because, as of today, we will have to work with the data that we have at our disposal, and follow the procedural steps for the arrest and extradition warrant. It is quite likely that this citizen will be summoned to a hearing for his identification. In a nutshell, these are the procedural data that I can give you, because unfortunately we are handling the other data with Interpol.

[Acosta] Nevertheless, judge, you were talking about an extradition petition. Is there one for this citizen?

[Monges] There is an arrest and extradition petition. This petition actually prompted this court proceeding, jointly with my colleague from Ciudad del Este. I also want to congratulate and thank Criminal Judge Hector Samaniego and Prosecutor Sanabria for their work. They have actually done a great job.

[Canete] I beg your pardon, Oscar. This petition was filed by Interpol Beirut, Interpol Buenos Aires, or by whom, Dr. Carlos Monges?

[Monges] It was filed by Interpol Beirut.

[Canete] Go ahead, Oscar.

[Acosta] No, no more questions, as I assume, as Judge Carlos Monges says, that we must not disrupt the investigations. It is a very delicate case, and as it is happening on our territory we will gain notoriety at the international level. Therefore this may actually be the reason why the judge cannot say anything at this time.

Can you add anything, Judge Monges, for the public and for the Argentines themselves? Please remember that this information will be broadcast over Radio Rivadavia of Buenos Aires within a few minutes. Can you say anything to the Argentine media, in order to have more or less of an idea about the case?

[Monges] The appropriate procedural steps will be followed in this case. We will basically study the arrest and extradition warrant. We will also investigate and handle the data that we have on a possible link with other events, basically the events that developed in Argentina. Unfortunately, I cannot disclose these data to the public.

Peru

Government Announces Stand on Haitian Crisis

PY1208202294 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 3 Aug 94 p A5

[Text] We have a Foreign Ministry communique in which the government establishes its position on the Haitian crisis. Here is the text of the communique:

Official Communique No. 08/94

UN Security Council Resolution 940, which was approved on 31 July and which is based on Chapter 7 of the UN Charter, authorizes member states to use all necessary means to achieve the most expeditious restoration of the legitimate government in Haiti. The Ministry of Foreign Relations thus deems it appropriate to comment:

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1. Adopting Resolution 940 is part of a UN and OAS process to restore democracy and the legitimate government in Haiti.
2. Peru believes, however, that not all peaceful means foreseen in previous OAS and UN Security Council resolutions have been exhausted.
3. The current situation imperiously calls for the reactivation of Governors' Island agreement, including direct negotiations between the involved parties.
4. Peru feels the use of force will increase the suffering of the Haitian people and is incompatible with the legal traditions of the hemisphere with respect to nonintervention in the domestic affairs of other states.
5. The government of Peru reaffirms its firm conviction that the legitimate government and the state of law must be restored in Haiti. It condemns the intransigence of the de facto government in face of international community calls for a peaceful solution to the crisis in that country.
6. Peru will assess its participation in nonmilitary multilateral actions once the legitimate government is restored in Haiti. Such participation will follow requests by the Haitian Government and by the mentioned international organizations.

Lima, 2 August 1994.

Ministry of Foreign Relations, Press Department.

State of Emergency Extended in 6 Areas

PA1308192994 Paris AFP in Spanish 1657 GMT 13 Aug 94

[Text] Lima, 13 Aug (AFP)—The government officially announced today a 60-day extension of the state of emergency, beginning today, in various provinces in six of Peru's 25 departments "to continue the fight against terrorism."

According to the supreme decree, the measure affects provinces in Puno, Cusco, Huancavelica, and Ayacucho Departments in the Andean southeast and Junin and Pasco Departments in central Peru.

The measure implies the suspension of constitutional guarantees and continued Armed Forces control over public order responsibilities in those regions.

Yesterday the government decreed a similar measure for 60 days in provinces of the Amazonian departments of Huanuco, San Martin, and Loreto, where subversive actions persist despite severe setbacks suffered by the rebels at the hands of the authorities.

Within the framework of the antiterrorist struggle, 252 members of Shining Path and the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement have been sentenced to life in prison in the past 48 months. General Guido Guevara, chairman of the Supreme Council of Military Justice, revealed Friday night that during this period the military judicial system assumed this function, which was previously in the jurisdiction of civil courts.

During the commemoration of Military Justice Day, General Guevara said 870 persons have been tried since August 1992, when the law on treason to the fatherland went into effect. Of that number, 252 received life sentences, and 463 received sentences ranging from 10 to 30 years in prison.

It has been reported that 122 alleged subversives were placed at the disposal of common courts to face terrorism charges following investigations that showed they were not involved in the crime of treason.

It has also been reported that 35 persons accused of belonging to terrorist groups due to police errors or false accusations by some repentant rebel have been found not guilty.

Uruguay

Police on Alert Against Terrorist Attacks

PA1308154594 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1350 GMT 13 Aug 94

[Text] Montevideo, 13 Aug (EFE)—Sources close to Uruguayan security forces reported today that Uruguayan police are in a state of alert due to tip-offs from Israeli and Argentine information services that there could be new terrorist attacks against Jewish communities.

During the early hours of the morning, security agents on the border with Argentina, in the Uruguay River sector, carefully checked the Salto Grande binational hydroelectric dam 520 kilometers northwest of Montevideo, after receiving an anonymous telephone tip that a bomb had been placed there.

It was a false alarm, but it served to show the coordination that exists and the quick action of the border security services.

Unofficial sources cited by Montevideo's EL PAIS said today that the Uruguayan police have maintained a steady contact with U.S. FBI and CIA agents. Likewise, the authorities have reported that next Tuesday, experts from the Israeli secret services will be arriving in the country.

The increase in security around synagogues, Israeli diplomatic installations, and Jewish social, cultural, and sports centers in Montevideo is apparent.

The Uruguayan Jewish community is small. It has been estimated at approximately 50,000.

The Municipality of Montevideo, where half of Uruguay's population of 3 million lives, has decided to prohibit the parking of automobiles on streets where Jewish installations are located.

This decision forms part of the preventive plan put in effect following the 18 July explosion of a car bomb in

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the headquarters of the Israeli-Argentine Mutual Association in Buenos Aires, which killed approximately 100 people.

Venezuela

Burelli: Peace Mission to Haiti To Benefit U.S.

PA1308003394 Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Report by Maria Lilibeth Da Corte from the "Union Radio News" newscast]

[Text] Asked about possible U.S. dissension in the face of the Venezuelan peace initiative, Foreign Minister Burelli Rivas replied that the United States could reap the most from the peace mission going to Haiti, because the United States would not have to invade Haiti or risk the lives of U.S. soldiers. He added that the peace mission organized by Venezuela is better than ever.

[Begin Burelli Rivas recording] I assure you that the Venezuelan initiative has not angered the United States. The United States would be the first one to benefit from the success of this effort, because it would please the United States if it did not have to go through the trouble of invading a country or sacrificing the lives of U.S. Marines. You all know how sensitive the American people are about this. Therefore, there can be no dissension. We are not consulting them on this; they merely know about our initiative, as does everyone else. [end recording]

As for the cancellation of a diplomatic passport to former President Jaime Lusinchi—a request made by Deputy Walter Marquez before the Foreign Ministry—Burelli Rivas said that action does not concern the Foreign Ministry but, rather, Congress, because it is the governmental body that grants diplomatic passports to former presidents.

Burelli: Friends of Haiti Group Not To Form

PA1408034194 Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 12 Aug 94 p 1-15

[Report by Antonio Fernandez Nays]

[Excerpt] Venezuelan Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Burelli Rivas believes the new initiative to form a commission with representatives of the Friends of Haiti Group, headed by former Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo, to find a peaceful solution to the Caribbean nation's problems and avoid the UN authorized invasion will not materialize.

The foreign minister said yesterday that Caputo has worked in all the peace efforts made previously and that they have not been successful. He added, nevertheless, the Argentine official could join "as a notable" the good offices commission, as proposed by the Venezuelan Government.

The Buenos Aires initiative, which attempts to atone the Venezuelan proposal, which has been accepted by several countries in the region, "does not have to be contrary to ours but should be geared in the same direction so that our positions can meet, because the important thing is to avoid the tragedy of a military intervention in Haiti," Burelli said.

The receptiveness for the Venezuelan initiative has been impressive, the minister said. The fact is the Foreign Ministry has received notes of support from Indonesia, Senegal, Poland, the Holy See, Israel, Ecuador, Colombia, Mexico, Bolivia, Uruguay, Cuba, and Brazil.

Burelli said: "There are appeals from all parts of the world aimed at preventing a shameful invasion of Haiti. We cannot ask anyone for permission to begin working on this issue. We are sovereign countries, the reason why we have adopted this decision."

The war action has been delayed, because the countries that back it have realized Venezuela and other nations are looking farther ahead and have foreseen the consequences an invasion of this type would have on the hemisphere, "regardless of a UN Security Council authorization," which violates the principle of nonintervention.

Burelli discarded the idea Venezuela wants to assume a regional leader role with this position, and he said avoiding the invasion is what is important.

He would not state a date on which the high level mission would travel to Haiti, because "this mission depends on the will of the people, on logistics, and on meetings that must be held. This issue is as an engineering job that must be carried out." [passage omitted]

Iranian Embassy Denies Argentine Judge's Charges

PA1208204794 Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 12 Aug 94 p 1-14

[Text] The Iranian mission has issued a press release strongly protesting the "defamation of Iranian dignitaries and officials."

The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Caracas stated yesterday in a press release its categorical rejection of statements by Argentine Federal Judge Juan Jose Galeano on the terrorist attacks in Buenos Aires against two Israeli community facilities. The judge blamed the attacks on diplomats stationed in Buenos Aires.

It must be recalled that the Argentine magistrate informed the Buenos Aires media yesterday that officials Akbar Parvaresh, Ahmad Allameh Falsafi, Abbas Zarrabi-Khorassani, and Gholamreza Mahvash, stationed with the Iranian Embassy in Buenos Aires, participated in the attacks on the Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association on 16 July and against the Israeli Embassy in that capital on 17 March 1992. Here is the text of the press release:

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Caracas, 10 August 1994, No. 600-374

Press Release

Copy of the note delivered to the Embassy of the Argentine Republic in Tehran by the Foreign Relations Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

According to media reports, the Argentine judge in charge of the investigation of the recent explosions in Buenos Aires issued in a recent report baseless and unacceptable accusations against a number of Iranian citizens.

The Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran categorically rejects these baseless and rude allegations and strongly protests the defamation of Iranian dignitaries and officials.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, while condemning all terrorist acts and as a follow-up to Verbal Note No. 500/200 dated 27 July 1994 from its Foreign Ministry, provides this information in connection with the following Iranian citizens, to the attention of the Argentine Republic Government, aimed at dispelling any doubts:

Honorable Mr. Akbar Parvaresh, officer of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, was on an official visit to Argentina between 3 and 6 December 1993 and met and talked with members of several Argentine parliamentary commissions.

Mr. Ahmad 'Allameh Falsafi was appointed to the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Buenos Aires from July 1989 to September 1992 and he has not left Iran since.

Mr. 'Abbas Zarrabi-Khorassani was assigned to the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Buenos Aires between October 1987 and March 1990. Since then, he has only traveled through the area once on a nine-day diplomatic mission to Brazil in December 1992.

Mr. Gholamreza Mahvash Monsef was assigned to the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Buenos Aires between January and October 1988. He has not visited the American continent since.

The Islamic Republic of Iran draws the Argentine Government's attention to the departure dates of these persons from that country—ranging between nine months to six years ago—which makes the accusations of the Argentine judge even more baseless. The Islamic Republic of Iran reiterates its hope that the Government of the Argentine Republic will take the necessary precautions to prevent the spread of baseless fabrications against the Islamic Republic of Iran and its citizens.

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